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Now the crucial missing link in the chain of evidence of *Chariots of the Gods?*

Complete with startling official NASA revelations that the moon may be a spaceship from other worlds!

OUR MYSTERIOUS SPACESHIP MOON

by DON WILSON

HOW CAN WE EXPLAIN WHY ROCKS ON THE MOON ARE OLDER THAN OUR SOLAR SYSTEM?

WHAT CAUSES THE STRANGE LIGHTS THAT MANY DIFFERENT ASTRONOMERS HAVE OBSERVED MOVING OVER THE SURFACE OF THE MOON?

WHAT DID THE U.S. ASTRONAUTS DISCOVER WHEN THEY LANDED ON THE MOON?

WHAT IS THE CONNECTION BETWEEN THE MOON AND THE RUINS OF A PREHISTORIC CITY HIGH IN THE ANDES?

WHAT IS THE MEANING OF THE RADIO SIGNALS PICKED UP FROM THE MOON AND FROM SO-CALLED METEORS STREAKING TOWARD THE MOON FROM OUTER SPACE?

WHAT IS THE PROOF THAT THE MOON IS INDEED HOLLOW?

Since human life began on earth, men have stood in awe and wonder of the moon and its magic. They have created legends about the moon, worshipped it, recognized its influence over the forces of nature on earth.

But now, for the first time, we may be learning the truth about the moon—a truth beyond man's wildest previous imaginings, and a truth that day by day becomes more and more undeniably clear.

OUR MYSTERIOUS SPACESHIP MOON

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Don Wilson

A Dell Book

Published by
Dell Publishing Co., Inc.
1 Dag Hammarskjold Plaza
New York, New York 10017
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ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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Dell ® TM 681510, Dell Publishing Co., Inc.
Printed in the United States of America
First Dell printing—October 1975

Unexplained sightings of lights and objects on the Moon have persisted down through the centuries. Today the Moon is more of an enigma than ever. As one NASA official put it, "The Moon has given us answers we don't even have questions for yet!"

The most beautiful thing we can experience is the mysterious. It is the source of all true art and science.

—Albert Einstein

AS I STAND OUT HERE IN THE
WONDERS OF THE UNKNOWN
AT HADLEY, I TRY TO REALIZE THERE IS A
FUNDAMENTAL TRUTH TO OUR NATURE.
MAN MUST EXPLORE.
AND THIS IS EXPLORATION AT ITS
GREATEST.

—Astronaut David Scott
Apollo 15
August 7, 1971

PROLOGUE

Prepare to meet two Soviet scientists and their incredible theory which explains all the mysteries of the Moon. This book could very well be the most mind-boggling experience of your life.

When I first stumbled across the shocking Soviet theory revealing the true nature of the Moon, I was staggered. At first I found it unbelievable and naturally rejected it. Then, as scientific information from our Apollo expeditions brought back more and more facts that backed the Soviet theory, I found myself forced to accept it.

All my life I have been fascinated by the sky and the stars. The bright, fire-laden Moon was no exception. But I—like most other people—had learned to look upon her as just a close companion world of our Earth, a sometimes bright, sometimes absent light of the night. Like many, I had come to take her inconstant face and warm familiarity for granted.

Then in 1957 the Russians launched the world's first satellite and the Space Age began. Soon both superpowers of our planet—the U.S. and the 'S.U.'—were striving valiantly to reach the Moon. And after a decade of effort, man finally succeeded in reaching his neighbor in the sky.

Our landing on the Moon has been called man's greatest adventure. It has been described as "the greatest scientific, engineering and exploratory challenge in the history of the human race." Ironically, it may prove to be more. The true makeup of this alien world could be the key to the very mystery of man himself!

For another story is lurking here that remains largely unknown—not only the strange encounters of American astronauts with an unknown alien presence on the Moon (as documented by NASA files), but the even more startling untold scientific account of the real nature of this strange lunar world.

Read this book and open-mindedly weigh the evidence. Perhaps you will come to agree that the theory of these two scholars from the Soviet Academy of Sciences is a most startling discovery. But even if you doubt their overwhelming findings, the Moon will never be the same to you again. Never will you raise your eyes to look at her without wondering: IS IT OR ISN'T IT AN ALIEN SPACESHIP WORLD?

BY THE AGENCY OF MAN A NEW ASPECT OF THINGS, A NEW UNIVERSE COMES INTO VIEW.
—Francis Bacon

CHAPTER 1

THE MYSTERIES OF THE MOON OVER THE CENTURIES

Our mysterious Moon, that strange alien world in our sky, has hung over our heads for as long as man can remember. And in all that vast time it has remained a tantalizing, unsolved puzzle, the single greatest mystery to haunt mankind.

It is strange how this orb has befuddled the best minds of Earth. We have been studying this weird world since we began to think, groping at her first with our eyes, then with telescopes. Next came the feeble probes of radio and radar. Then the Space Age dawned and we began to search her out with the eyes of cameras borne up on spaceships. Despite the thousands of close-up photographs, scientists could not determine the Moon's true makeup or where the Moon came from. They still were unsure about her origin and nature.

Finally, even when man himself came to probe her surface, the Moon beneath his feet remained a mystery, an unexplainable enigma. In fact, the more scientists study and learn about her, the greater a mystery she seems to become. They still cannot explain the myriads of strange happenings that have been observed over the centuries on her surface. Nor are they able to understand the strange encounters our astronauts have had with an alien presence on and around the Moon. And

scientists themselves are continuing to uncover bewildering and baffling scientific facts that indicate the Moon is not what it seems, but a world that may not be entirely natural.

When the Soviet Union and the United States were racing for the Moon, it looked at the outset as though the Soviets would win. In fact, back in the late fifties, when the Russians were launching men into outer space and we could barely orbit grapefruit-sized satellites, a news reporter interviewing one of America's leading space experts, Dr. Wernher von Braun, asked him what he thought American scientists would find when they got to the Moon. The German-born rocket expert, father of the V-2, answered in one word—Russians!

But other people thought they would find something else. All through the fifties and sixties people were reporting the sightings of strange objects in the sky. At first dubbed "flying saucers" and later termed "unidentified flying objects," they convinced some observers they were spaceships bearing alien visitors to our planet. Indeed, not a few UFO writers thought these objects were using the Moon as a base of operations.

For strange things were being sighted on the surface of the Moon. Even the most objective scientists had to admit there were unexplainable happenings taking place on and around our neighboring world. Yet most astronomers of our time considered the Moon to be a completely dead planet, without an atmosphere to sustain life, where nothing ever changed, even over spans of thousands or, for that matter, millions of years. Yet changes were taking place on the Moon.

The discovery was first made on the night of July 29th, 1953, by John J. O'Neill, science editor of the New York *Herald Tribune*. At first O'Neill refused to believe his eyes. It had to be an optical illusion. He had studied this area of the Moon with his telescope before and noticed nothing. And he knew it had been observed hundreds and even thousands of times before by many professional astronomers without a single mention of a

strange structure such as he had seen. But there it was, and a careful, repeated rechecking by O'Neill showed the peculiar "bridge" still there, stretching across twelve miles of the Moon's Mare Crisium area.

O'Neill communicated his discovery in his report to the Association of Lunar and Planetary Observers, calling it "a gigantic natural bridge." But as many scientific observers and even O'Neill himself knew, the sudden appearance of the structure threw serious doubt on the question of whether it was in fact natural.

As was to be expected, O'Neill was soon attacked by some skeptical astronomers who doubted that he had actually seen such a structure on the Moon. Then the man who many considered the number-one lunar expert of his day, the British astronomer H.P. Wilkins, confirmed that he too had seen this gigantic bridge. He described it as "one of the most amazing, mysterious and artificial-looking features on the moon."[1]

In the months to follow other astronomers, like Patrick Moore, one of the leading members of the British Astronomical Association, reported that he too saw this bridgelike structure spanning the mountain barriers in the lunar plains called Mare Crisium, or the "Sea of Crisis."

Some astronomers who sighted the awesome structure even claimed they could see sunlight streaming under it. Astronomers like Wilkins and Moore, although they had serious reservations about the mysterious bridge, claimed that they viewed it as "natural." Nevertheless, Wilkins admitted his puzzlement. For he too had "scanned this area with excellent telescopes," and as he admitted in his own words, "I had never even suspected such a thing."[2]

Is it possible that these highly competent astronomers were mistaken? That was a charge flung at them by some people, even by some of their professional colleagues. But astronomer Wilkins defended this sighting, and the reports of other "strange appearances on the moon witnessed by experienced observers, people who

have been observing the moon too long to be easily deceived."[3]

As Wilkins implied, this was not the only strange discovery on the surface of this supposedly uninhabited world. On March 30th, 1950, he himself had spotted through a fifteen-inch reflector a weird glow on the Aristarchus-Herodotus region of the Moon. This oval-shaped and strangely brilliant light appeared like "some type of glowing machine hovering near the crater floor."[4] He also reported that on the morning of August 12th, 1944, he saw "a very bright round spot" of light near the center of the crater Plato.

Nor were these isolated sightings. Other strange lights were seen by many competent observers. On September 16th, 1953, Rudolph M. Lippert, a member of the Lunar Section of the British Astronomical Association, reported seeing a peculiar bright flash, a mysterious light that glowed a yellowish orange. Lippert thought it might have been only a meteor hitting the Moon.

At the Lowell Observatory in Arizona, on October 30th, 1963, another astronomer, John Greenacre, spotted a glowing red light on the surface of Luna. Its light, according to Greenacre, was so intense that it was like "looking into a large gem ruby."[5]

Over the past centuries, literally hundreds of similar strange lights and other weird happenings have been observed on this purportedly dead world and reported. One reliable estimate places the number of such sightings by competent observers in the last 200 years at over 800.

A recent survey of the literature and journals of astronomers uncovered about 400 reports of such strange lunar happenings over a period longer than 400 years. This careful study was done by two prominent astronomers, Patrick A. Moore, of the Armagh Planetarium in Northern Ireland, and Barbara M. Middlehurst, of the Lunar and Planetary Laboratory, University of Arizona. The researchers claim "nearly all of the early observers are known to have been scientists of integrity."[6] They

excluded questionable reports in their *Science* magazine article.

What about the possibility of errors or mistakes in observation? Moore and Middlehurst believe strongly that their "careful checking of the details . . . make it probable that the number of errors is not high. . . . We do not believe that inclusion of a few possibly incorrect reports substantially influences our findings."[7]

The authors also mapped the sites of these strange lunar sightings and discovered they fall into three major areas: sites around the outskirts of the maria (the dark lunar plains); and the ray craters and ring plains, both of which have dark or partially dark floors.

As we have noted before, Patrick Moore was one of the many astronomers who observed the strange bridge in the Sea of Crisis area. He also admits another strange sighting in which he observed what he describes as "a color phenomenon, reddish glows in the crater Cassendi, 30 April–1 May, 1966."[8] The light was also "confirmed by P. Satory and confirmed by T. Moseley and other observers," notes Moore.

While it is true that many of these observations have been reluctantly attributed by astronomers to volcanic eruptions or to gases "fluorescing" in the sunlight, most lunar scientists remain puzzled. The vast majority were convinced that the Moon was a completely dead world and hardly volcanically active.

Nor could the lights be explained away as meteors striking and flashing against the hard surface areas of the Moon, for the Moore-Middlehurst study indicated the sightings lasted an average of about 20 minutes. Undoubtedly a few could be accounted for in this way, but hardly all, or even a fair portion, could be written off with this flimsy explanation.

An examination of astronomy records of the past few centuries reveals that many such strange happenings on or around the Moon are astoundingly puzzling. Look at the record and judge for yourself.

Sir John Hershel, one of England's greatest astrono-

mers and the man considered by many to be the father of modern astronomy, reported that he had seen strange, bright lights in 1783 when the moon was darkened by an eclipse. On August 18th, 1787, he claimed he saw spots glowing like "slowly burning charcoal thinly covered with ashes."[9] Hershel saw similar lights and glows on the moon on seven occasions, and he reported that some seemed to him to be moving "above the moon." In one month, November of 1821, Hershel saw such strange lights "three times in succession."

But long before Hershel, mysterious lights on the Moon were reported. Even as early as March 1587, an English scientist reported seeing a bright spot on the Moon "directly between the points of her hornes, one being changed not, posing five or six daies before (*sic*)."[10] This same early observer wrote, in the *Monthly Notices of the Royal Astronomical Society,* that he had seen with his ten-inch telescope "two luminous spots, one on either side of a small ridge of a yellow flame colour, while all the rest the enlightened part was a snowy white. I observed it for five hours."[11]

The German astronomer J. H. Schroeter, who spent almost his entire life mapping the Moon, on September 26, 1788, saw a bright whitish light, just like a star, suddenly shining among the peaks of the lunar Alps near the crater Plato. The light continued to shine for 15 minutes and then disappeared. It clearly could not have been a meteor. Consider these other early observations of lights detected on Luna:

> November 1668—A letter from colonial minister Cotton Mather to Mr. Waller of the Royal Society dated "at Boston, November 24, 1712," refers to "ye star below ye body of ye Moon, and within the Horns of it . . . seen in New England in the Month of November, 1668." This letter is now in the Library of Massachusetts Historical Society, Boston.

1783—In *Philosophical Transactions* (Volume LXXVI) for 1787, the great astronomer Hershel reports "a bright spot seen in the dark of the moon . . . which seen in the telescope resembled a star of the fourth magnitude as it appears to the natural eye."

1794—In the same *Philosophical Transactions* (Volumes XXVI and XXVII) in seven separate letters are reported "lights in the dark portion of moon." The main sighting was reported by the Astronomer Royal, Reverend Nevil Maskelyne. Another letter written to the Royal Society by a Mr. Wilkins reports a similar sighting. Wilkins writes: "I was, as it were, rivetted to the spot where I stood, during the time it continued, and took every method I could to convince myself that it was not an error of sight, including the testimony of one who passed and said it was a star." In his third letter he adds: "I am certain of this spot appearing *within* the circumference of the moon's circle." Another witness, a Mr. Stratton, declared that it was a "light like a star, as large as a star, but not so bright, in the dark part of the moon."

1847—A British Association report claims that "luminous pointes" or lights on the moon were witnessed during an eclipse.

1867—*The Astronomical Register* reported that Thomas Elger claimed he saw a light suddenly about 7:30 P.M. on April 9th, 1867. At 9:30 it ended. Elger testified: "I have seen lights on the moon before, but never so clear as this."

Similarly, in the late 19th century the Capetown Observatory reported seeing white lights along with smaller lights on "the dark of the moon."

Remember that volcanic eruption is the most com-

mon explanation of lights and glows seen on the Moon. In 1958, when the Russian astronomer Nikolai Kozyrev, at the Crimean Astrophysical Observatory, reported that he saw a bright "cloud" on or near the central peak of Alphonsus, it was passed off as "volcanic activity" by some while Kozyrev himself attributed it to fluorescent gases issuing from the crater's central peak. On the night of November 3, 1958, Kozyrev photographed the spectrum of a reddish patch near there. The reddish light "seemed to move and disappeared after an hour."

It too was passed off as another volcanic event, which was strange because most scientists were still convinced the Moon was a dead, cold world, certainly not hot enough to produce volcanic activity. Even among "hot-mooners" who believed Luna was volcanically active, very few thought that volcano eruptions were still transpiring on the Moon! Nonetheless, the "volcanic" and fluorescing-gas explanations became the easy out for most scientists.

Admittedly, all these reports *could* be passed off as glows of lava or volcanic gases fluorescing in the sunlight. But what about lights that are described as "moving"? We have already seen that Sir John Hershel claimed many of the lights he saw in his long career seemed to him to be moving "above the moon."

Perhaps the weirdest and most unexplainable sighting was the sudden splurge of mystery lights that were seen starting in 1869. They were reported to have appeared in such regular patterns and so frequently that the Royal Astronomical Society of Great Britain held a three-year investigation.

Interestingly, the majority of these strange, puzzling lights were spotted in the Mare Crisium area, the very same area where O'Neill and H. P. Wilkins saw the gigantic twelve-mile bridge in the 1950s. Dozens of astronomers witnessed these mystery lights which appeared singly, in circular groups, triangular and straight formations; *moving* and *varying* in intensity as if they were under intelligent control.

As few as four and as many as 28 were seen in the crater Plato on May 13th, 1870. One observer noted that as one of these lights increased in intensity and brightness, another diminished. One after another the lights would alternately shine and then fade out, as if responding, as one writer noted, "to the touch of switches of some mysterious lunar operator of electric batteries and lights!"[12]

Remarkably, the lights kept reappearing night after night. Until 1870 careful records were made of the number and formation of these mystery lights. It was hoped that in time some message might be deciphered. Then, after almost 2000 observations, these strange mystery lights no longer appeared. To this day the signals and their meaning—if there was any—remain a mystery.

The moon burst forth in a rash of lights again in 1877. On the night of February 20th of that year Monsieur Trouvelot, of the Meudon Observatory near Paris, spotted a light in the lunar crater Eudoxus, in the north-west quadrant of the Moon, an area where many mysterious light signals have been received in the past century. The very next month, a British astronomer, C. Barrett, saw a bright light in the crater Proclus, which he insisted was not a reflection of the sun.

In New York on June 17th, 1877, Professor Henry Harrison spotted a light which looked like a reflection from a moving mirror. Intriguingly, at the same time in England Frank Dennet also saw a tiny point of light in the lunar crater Bessel.

In the latter part of 1877 Dr. Klein reported in the French scientific journal *L'Astronomie:* "I saw a luminous triangle on the floor of the lunar crater Plato. It may have been reflected sunlight." However, on the same night of Klein's observation similar mysterious shafts of light, which seemed to move in several directions towards the crater Plato, were sighted. Again the other observers reported "a triangle of light" on the

floor of that crater, even as Dr. Klein did from his observatory in Paris.

Maxwell Cade, an astronomical observer, points out in his book *Other Worlds Than Ours:*

> Star-like lights, which could not have been due to the Sun's rays illuminating the tops of high mountains, have been the subject of many hundreds of observations; in fact, up to April 1871, no fewer than 1600 observations had been made for the crater Plato alone. Nor were these lights always single, or in small irregular groups, for many of the reports refer to the "geometrical arrangement." Were these attempts at signalling by the inhabitants of, or visitors to the Moon? Both of these notions are extremely improbable, to say the least, but no one really knows what they were.[13]

A mere glance at these reports of strange lights and their even stranger movements indicates they could hardly have been volcanic eruptions or meteors flashing against the hard lunar surface. But even more difficult to explain are the mystifying *objects* that have been reported moving across the face of that orb or very close to the lunar disc.

In *The Journal of the Franklin Institute* it was reported that on August 7th, 1869, the same time as the rash of sightings studied by the British Astronomical Society, a Professor Swift, of Mattoon, Illinois, observed several objects cross the face of the Moon twenty minutes before a solar eclipse began its total phase. They seemed to move in one direction across its surface, and in parallel lines as if they were in formation.

In Paris, the *Journal Les Mondes* reported that Professors Hines and Zentmayer also spotted these objects. They too noted that they seemed to be moving in straight and parallel lines.

In 1874 Monsieur Lamey, another French observer,

was reported to have seen a great number of black objects cross the surface of the Moon.

In the same year, on April 24th, a Professor Schafarik, in what is now Czechoslovakia, reported: "I saw an object so peculiar in nature that I know not what to make of it. It was blinding white, and slowly crossed the face of the moon. It remained visible afterwards" (*Astronomical Registar,* XVIII, 206).

Similarly, a Dutch astronomer, Muller, saw a dark round object slowly pass across the Moon's disc in a horizontal direction. This was on April 4, 1892. Just four years later, in 1896, W.R. Brooks of the Smith Observatory in America saw an identical phenomenon. He described this object as being one-thirtieth of the Moon's diameter. He noted that it took the object a mere three to four seconds to cross the Moon's face.

In 1899 another luminous object was spotted moving above the Moon. It appeared to be close to the surface and moving across it. It was sighted by Dr. Warren E. Day, who reported it to the U.S. Weather Bureau at Prescott, Arizona. Strikingly, the same object was reported by a G. Scott of Tonto, Arizona.

More than moving lights and objects have been spotted on or around the Moon since the age of the telescope. Perhaps the most intriguing reports are those that pinpoint strange structures and changes that have taken place on the surface of this supposedly changeless world. Remember that the Moon—without air and wind—is relatively without erosion.

In 1843 Johann Schroeter recorded a six-mile crater which he named Linne. Its depth was estimated by the scientist to be about 1200 feet.

This German astronomer made hundreds of maps of the Moon over many years. As he recorded his observations he saw this crater gradually disappear. Today Linne is just a tiny bright spot with little depth; a small pit surrounded by whitish deposits.

Ironically, Linne was not the only thing poor Schroeter lost. Early in his career Napoleon's armies razed his

observatory and carried away his brass instruments thinking they were made out of gold.

More puzzling than Schroeter's sightings are the strange phenomena observed by the highly respected astronomer W.H. Pickering, the discoverer of the ninth satellite of Saturn, Phoebe. He observed certain peculiar dark areas which changed their position during each monthly cycle and which he noted especially in the crater Eratosthenes. He knew that it was impossible for plants and trees and flowers to exist in the airless environment of the Moon and yet he risked his reputation when he boldly announced that he had come to the conclusion that the dark areas had to be some sort of "vegetation." Pickering wrote: "It is perfectly obvious that terrestrial vegetation could not exist on the Moon and probably not on Mars. But something does nevertheless exist on both of these bodies, which, while differing more or less from anything with which we are familiar, can be better described by the word vegetation than any other in the English language."[14]

Pickering also claimed that he saw "travelling dark objects" moving across the surface of the Moon. Again he wrote in a paper on this strange phenomenon: "In trying to find conclusive arguments for or against the existence of animal life upon the Moon, I have necessarily studied not only the routes along which it appears to travel, but also the reasons for which it might be expected to travel."[15]

And so this conservative astronomer, despite the great risk to his scientific reputation, came to what he felt was an inescapable conclusion—that these "travelling dark objects" were none other than migrating swarms of insects or some other form of animal life. He claimed they covered 20 miles in 12 days.

What did Pickering actually see? No one knows for sure. But most contemporary scientists feel it was not animals, nor any form of insect life. However, no one questions Pickering's integrity and competence. He did see something. What it was remains a mystery.

There is no doubt that down through the years credible observers have seen some incredible things on the Moon. There is no doubt that something strange is still happening up there from time to time. Our government —as recently as our NASA program—recognized this and supported Operation Moon Blink, a program of volunteer observations done at a number of observatories.

Operation Moon Blink cited ten strange phenomena, three of which were confirmed independently and separately by observers outside the program.

There is more. Volume 20 of the highly regarded *Astronomical Register* gives this report: "Near the crater Birt . . . is an object shaped like a sword . . . [and] a geometric object shaped like a cross, in the lunar crater Eratosthenes. In the lunar crater Gassendi are angular lines, and on the floor of the crater Littrow are seven spots in the shape of the Greek capital Gamma."

The most direct conclusion that could be made about all these strange phenomena (assuming scientists are right about the nonexistence of native Lunar life!) is that the Moon is being used as a "space base" by aliens.

One writer who does come to the conclusion that there are alien beings on the moon is Robert Charroux. In his book *Man's Unknown History* Charroux concludes this about our Moon:

> There have been observations which suggest the possibility that the moon has served as a base for unidentified spacecraft. Astronomers have noted, at different times, bright lights in the Aristarchus crater, the letter X in the Eratosthenes crater, the Greek letter gamma in the Littrow crater, and a checkered pattern in the Plato crater. Are we to conclude that these lunar craters have been frequented by extraterrestrial astronauts? . . . The possibility cannot be rejected, especially with regard to the Plato crater, where many mysterious lights have been observed.[16]

Could it be that the Moon is inhabited after all? That it is being used as a spacebase, as Charroux claims, for alien beings of other worlds? The evidence admittedly is impressive, and it hardly is all in. Consider that in 1927, 1928, and 1934, at the dawn of our radio age, mystifying radio signals were detected in the vicinity of our companion world, the Moon, by various radio researchers. In 1935, two scientists named Van der Pol and Stormer detected radio signals on and around the moon. Marconi and Telsa also reported flashing lunar lights.

Closer to our own day, in 1956, Ohio University reported, along with observatories around the world, a "codelike radio chatter from the Moon."[17]

And finally, in October 1958, American, Soviet, and British astronomers detected something speeding toward the Moon at better than 25,000 miles per hour! They not only saw the strange object; they heard it emitting radio signals that no one could interpret!

Another writer who is convinced that all this proves alien beings are on our neighboring world is Harold Wilkins, the UFO writer. "I have suggested that the moon may be and long has been a stopover place for what we call flying saucers, or spaceships," asserts Harold Wilkins. He claims:

> Since I advance the theory that our moon has been, and still probably is used as an advanced observation base, in regard to our earth, by mysterious cosmic visitants connected with the flying saucer phenomena, I may note that it is singular that all these centers of illumination are in the northwest quarter, or quadrant of the moon.[18]

Another UFO researcher, Major Donald Keyhoe, also believes strongly that extraterrestrial astronauts are on our Moon. He asserts:

> All the evidence suggested not only the existence of a moon base, but that operations by an intelligent race have already begun. If so, who could the creatures be? Were they from other planets or did they originate on the Moon? . . . Admittedly the possibilities are numerous . . . Surface creatures may have inhabited the Moon long before its atmosphere thinned. If this were so, they might have adapted to changing conditions by creating a synthetic "atmosphere underground" . . . But it is more likely that the Moon race—if one existed—had always lived underground, protected there from the constant meteor bombardment.[19]

This seemingly wild theory could account for the strange geometric light formations and the many other mysteries earthlings have witnessed over the centuries. But if these strange reports are correct, an intelligent race must have been on the Moon for a long, long time.

And if the theory of the two Soviet scientists is correct, such a race had been *inside* that spaceship world even longer!

METHOUGHT I SAW LIFE, SWIFTLY TREADING OVER SPACE.

—Thomas Hood

CHAPTER 2

ASTRONAUTS AND UFOs AROUND THE PLANET EARTH

The Space Age began in the late fifties when the Soviet Union launched the world's first space satellite. America soon followed suit, and all through the sixties both America and Russia busied themselves with their fledgling space programs, launching sputniks and space capsules left and right into the heavens. But people all over the world claimed to be seeing other strange space objects in the skies that were neither American nor Russian.

Despite Air Force denials and, later, the Condon Report, which tried to whitewash UFOs out of the skies, they continued to be seen by millions of people all over the world. Competent pilot and trained-observer sightings were in the forefront of the thousands of UFO reports that continued to pour in. As America, committed by President John F. Kennedy to land a man on the Moon, prepared for the event with its series of Mercury orbiting missions, NASA astronauts joined the growing throng reporting that they too had seen strange objects in space. Now, not only competent airline pilots, but our men in space were seeing unidentified flying objects which our official government investigatory agency, the U.S. Air Force, insisted did not exist.

The first astronaut to definitely see a UFO while in

orbit was Major Gordon Cooper, during the marathon Mercury flight mission of 21 orbits in Faith 7 (May 15, 1963). While making his fourth pass over Hawaii, Cooper claims he heard weird voice transmissions which he called an "unintelligible foreign language." The fact is that this transmission had cut in on the VHF channel reserved *exclusively* for space-flights. There is no evidence that any nation on earth violated that international agreement. Tapes later proved that the sounds were not those of a foreign language of this planet but those of a tongue completely alien to Earth. Although language experts for NASA have replayed these tapes over and over they simply have not been able to analyze it, according to one authority.[1]

This was not the end of Cooper's strange experience on Faith 7. On his final orbit of Earth while over the Muchea Tracking Station near Perth, Australia, the NASA astronaut sighted a weird-looking object approaching him. This UFO was also seen by over 200 people at the tracking station.

Cooper described the object as being of "good size," and claimed: "It was higher than I was. It wasn't even in the vicinity of the horizon . . ."[2] This indicated that the bogey (NASA's slang term for UFO) was not a star or other object, either natural or manmade.

Afterward Cooper stated bluntly in the book *We Seven*: "I also had the idea there might be some interesting forms of life out in space for us to discover and get acquainted with. I don't believe in fairy tales, but as far as I'm concerned there have been far too many unexplained examples of unidentified objects sighted around this earth to rule out the possibility that some form of life exists out beyond our world."[3]

Cooper's flight was the final Mercury mission, but the sighting of UFOs by astronauts did not end. After the Mercury flights the U.S. entered the intermediate stage of our space program—the Gemini series. This program's objectives were to orbit two-man spacecraft and see if spacesuited spacemen (via spacewalks) could survive in

space outside the protection of their craft. It also served to solve the problems of linking two spacecraft in space. This docking operation was to be vital in getting man back from the Moon.

According to some researchers, every astronaut in all 12 space shots of the Gemini space-flight series saw one or more UFOs. NASA authorities, however, almost always denied or hushed up any of these strange encounters. The closest that NASA authorities came to admitting that UFOs were actually sighted was on June 1, 1966, after the launch of Gemini 9, which was suddenly scrubbed due to what was claimed as "interference" with the radio hookup. NASA then released a statement, which was presented over nationwide television, admitting that unidentified flying objects had been seen by astronauts on several occasions.

According to Major Donald E. Keyhoe, former head of the National Investigation Committee on Aerial Phenomena (NICAP), the very first unmanned flight in our Gemini series detected UFOs. That Gemini spacecraft, he claimed, was followed by four unknowns into orbit. Keyhoe also claims he received his information from several scientists who were tracing the flight of GT-1 on radar at Cape Kennedy. These scientists reported that the four UFOs continued to follow the spacecraft, going right along with it for a complete orbit. Then suddenly they streaked off and disappeared.

In June 1965, Major James McDivitt, and America's first space walker, Major Edward White, saw and photographed a glowing egg-shaped object which approached the Gemini 4 capsule in which they were orbiting. The astronauts, viewing "the unknown" from their spacecraft window, saw this unidentified object flying first above and then below them. The "unknown" appeared to be a cylindrical "silvery" light which seemed to be "closing in" on the Gemini 4 spacecraft. The pair made preparations to take evasive action "to avoid collision"[4] with this mysterious object, which they sighted over Hawaii. McDivitt aimed his movie camera at the bogey, taking

five frames of film which show the UFO as it made a quick but close fly-by. The movie shows an egg-shaped object giving off a fanlike glow, with a long tail of light.

Here is the actual Mission Control report on the sighting:

> "This is Gemini Control. We are now 30 hours and nine minutes into the mission. Spacecraft Gemini 4 has just completed a pass over the state on its 20th orbit." In voice communication with Gus Grissom, spacecraft communicator, Command Pilot Jim McDivitt reported he had sighted another object in space. He described it only as an object that appeared to have big arms sticking out. He said he took some motion pictures of this object, but was having some difficulty because of the sun.

Seconds later astronaut Gus Grissom asked whether McDivitt was still watching "that thing out there." His answer: "No. I've lost it. It had big arms sticking out of it . . . I only had it for just a minute, I got a couple of pictures of it with the movie camera and one with the Hasselblad. But I was in free drift and before I could get the control back, I drifted into the sun and lost it."

Naturally, when Mission Control received word that a bogey had been sighted a request was made to our Space Detection and Tracking System to locate the unknown object.

However, investigation showed that the closest object in space to the Gemini spacecraft was more than 1200 miles away.

When Mission Control questioned Gemini 4 astronauts about the sighting this fact was clearly brought out.

Here is the verbatim transcript of that incident:

CAPCOM: Roger, could you give us an estimate as to how far that satellite was from you yesterday?
GEMINI 4: I couldn't really tell; it looked like quite a

large object. It looked like I was approaching it rather rapidly. I'd say 10 miles or so.

CAPCOM: Ten miles?

MC DIVITT: That would only be a guess. It was close enough that I could see . . .

CAPCOM: See what?

MC DIVITT: (Garbled transmission).

CAPCOM: You're coming off pretty badly there. I couldn't read that.

MC DIVITT: O.K.

CAPCOM: That came through good.

MC DIVITT: All right. I said I got close enough to . . .

CAPCOM: Close enough to it . . . to what? The nearest we can tell, there wasn't anything that close to you. Pegasus was about 1200 miles away.

MC DIVITT: No, not quite that close. That far away.

CAPCOM: Pretty good eyeball, all right.

MC DIVITT: I took a picture. I just hope it comes out.

CAPCOM: So do we.

How did the pictures come out? The Condon Report, officially commissioned by the U.S. Air Force to evaluate UFO sightings, says this: "When they landed, the film was sent from the aircraft carrier to land and was not seen again by McDivitt for four days. The NASA photo interpreter had released three or four pictures but McDivitt says the pictures released were definitely not of the object he had seen. His later, personal inspection of the actual film did reveal what he had seen, although the quality of the blown-up image was such that the object was seen only hazily against the sky. But he feels that a positive identification had been made."[5]

The Condon Report, which in general writes off UFO sightings, and which even impartial, expert investigators like Dr. J. Allen Hynek, himself a former U.S.-Air-Force-appointed UFO investigator, considers a "whitewash" job, nevertheless does make this startling admission (pp. 204–205):

> There are three visual sightings made by the astronauts while in orbit which, in the judgment of the writer, have not been adequately explained. These are: 1. Gemini 4, astronaut McDivitt. Observation of a cylindrical object with a protuberance. 2. Gemini 4, astronaut McDivitt. Observation of a moving bright light at a higher level than the Gemini spacecraft. 3. Gemini 7, astronaut Borman saw what he referred to as a "bogey" flying in formation with the spacecraft.

The report later adds (p. 208) this comment:

> The three unexplained sightings which have been gleaned from a great mass of reports are a challenge to the analyst. Especially puzzling is the first one (Gemini 4) on the list, the daytime sighting of an object showing details such as arms (antennas?) protruding from a body having a noticeable angular extension. If the NORAD listing of objects near the GT-4 spacecraft at the time of the sighting is complete as it presumably is, we shall have to find a rational explanation or, alternately keep it on our list of unidentifieds.[6]

The Gemini 4 astronaut James McDivitt did sight a UFO once more, on the 38th orbit, while he was over China. McDivitt described the object, which was sighted passing low over China, as "a bright star, moving fast." No details could be made out by him other than a "light" that was moving with respect to the star background. This time, according to Mission Control release at Houston, McDivitt did not attempt to take pictures of the strange light.

On the next flight, Gemini 5, which hurled Cooper and Conrad into orbit around the Earth for eight days, three more UFOs were observed shortly after lift-off. One ground witness described the object "travelling at very high speed" as looking "like a silver or brilliant

green phosphorescent light just east of the contrail left by the rocket. It made a sort of S-turn in and around the contrail, appeared elliptical in shape as it turned, then changed into a clearly defined disc."[7] Fortunately movies were made of this "unknown" before it disappeared. Strangely, the movies picked up *three* unknowns.

Gemini 7, with Frank Borman and James Lovell aboard (December 1965), spotted a large UFO in addition to strange smaller "particles" in the vicinity of its spacecraft. A large mysterious object paced the Gemini 7 craft while it passed over Cape Kennedy on its second orbit. The object was described by a NASA spokesman as "one of the biggest puzzlers" and "certainly . . . unusual and unexpected."

Here verbatim is the conversation between Houston Mission Control and the NASA space capsule in regard to this sighting:

NASA SPACE CAPSULE: Gemini 7 here. Houston, how do you read?

CAPCOM: Loud and clear. 7 go ahead.

GEMINI 7: Bogey at 10 o'clock high.

CAPCOM: This is Houston. Say again.

GEMINI 7: Said we have bogey [UFO] at 10 o'clock high.

CAPCOM: Roger. Gemini 7, is that the booster or is that an actual sighting?

GEMINI 7: We have several, looks like debris up here. Actual sighting.

CAPCOM: You have any more information? Estimate distance or size?

GEMINI 7: We also have the booster in sight. Roger.

CAPCOM: Understand you also have the booster in sight. Roger.

GEMINI 7: Yeah, we have a very, very many—like, like hundreds of little particles banked on the left about three to seven miles.

CAPCOM: Understand you have many particles going by on your left. At what distance?

GEMINI 7: Oh about—it looks like a path of the vehicle at 90 degrees.
CAPCOM: Roger. Understand that they are about three to four miles away.
GEMINI 7: That's what it appeared like. That's Roger.
CAPCOM: Were these particles in addition to the booster and the bogey at 10 o'clock high?
GEMINI 7: Roger. I [Lovell] have the booster on my side. It's a brilliant body in the sun, against a black background with trillions of particles on it.
CAPCOM: Roger. What direction is it from you?
GEMINI 7: It's about at my two o'clock position.
CAPCOM: Does that mean it's ahead of you?
GEMINI 7: It's ahead of us at two o'clock slowly tumbling.

As we have noted, the Condon Report, which in general tries to discount UFO sightings, does make a startling admission on this sighting:

> The general reconstruction of the sighting . . . is that in addition to the booster travelling in an orbit similar to that of the spacecraft there was another bright object (bogey) together with many illuminated objects. It might be conjectured that the bogey and particles were fragments from the launching of Gemini 7, but this is impossible if they were travelling in a polar orbit as they appeared to the astronauts to be doing.[8]

Photographs were taken by astronauts Borman and Lovell of the objects. One picture shows a bright, shining UFO, and another, surprisingly, three glowing objects.

What about the strange particles that were sighted? Here there seems to be a legitimate explanation. Similar glowing particles were sighted on the very first Mercury flight by astronaut John Glenn. During that first manned orbital space flight, astronaut Glenn reported as follows:

The biggest surprise of the flight occurred at dawn. Coming out of night on the first orbit, at the first glint of sunlight on the spacecraft, I was looking inside the spacecraft checking instruments for perhaps 15 to 20 seconds. When I glanced back through the window my initial reaction was that the spacecraft had tumbled and that I could see nothing but stars through the window. I realized, however, that I was still in the normal attitude. The spacecraft was surrounded by luminous particles.

These particles were a light yellowish green color. It was as if the spacecraft were moving through a field of fireflies. They were about the brightness of a first magnitude star and appeared to vary in size from a pinhead up to possibly 3/8 inch. They were about 8 to 10 feet apart and evenly distributed through the space around the spacecraft. Occasionally, one or two of them would move slowly up around the spacecraft and across the window drifting very, very slowly, and would then gradually move off, back in the direction I was looking. I observed these luminous objects for approximately 4 minutes each time the sun came up.

During the third sunrise I turned the spacecraft around and faced forward to see if I could determine where the particles were coming from. Facing forwards I could see only about 10 percent as many particles as I had when my back was to the sun. Still, they seemed to be coming towards me from some distance so that they appeared not to be coming from the spacecraft.[9]

Despite Glenn's last statement, the Condon Report agreed with Dr. John A. O'Keefe's conclusion that "the most probable explanation of the Glenn effect is millimeter-size flakes of material liberated at or near sunrise by the spacecraft."[10]

This interpretation seems to be the correct explanation for Glenn's "fireflies," because subsequent flights

showed other astronauts sighted similar particles. In fact astronaut Carpenter in Mercury 7 almost proved this to be the case. Carpenter reported:

> At dawn on the third orbit as I reached for the densitometer, I inadvertently hit the spacecraft hatch and a cloud of particles flew by the window . . . I continued to knock on the hatch and other portions of the spacecraft walls, and each time a cloud of particles came past the window. The particles varied in size, brightness, and color. Some were grey and others were white. The largest were 4 to 5 times the size of the smaller ones. One that I saw was a half inch long. It was shaped like a curlicue and looked like a lathe turning.[11]

So we can reasonably conclude that the strange particles sighted by Gemini 7 astronauts also were of the same origin.

However, the unidentified object sighted during the Gemini flight 10 (July 1966) is not so easy to explain. On this flight astronauts reported they sighted two "unknown objects following their spacecraft."

They radioed Mission Control and gave this report:

GEMINI 10: This is 10, Houston. We have two bright objects up here in our orbital path. I don't think they are stars—they look like we are going right along with them.

MISSION CONTROL: Roger. 10, Houston.

GEMINI 10: 10, go.

M. CONTROL: Where are the objects from you?

GEMINI 10: Roger.

M. CONTROL: If you can get us a bearing, maybe we can track them down.

GEMINI 10: They just disappeared. I guess they were—guess they were satellites of some kind.

Later in their space voyage the Gemini 10 astronauts reported seeing the object again.

GEMINI 10: To the east we have an extremely bright object. I believe it's too bright to be a planet. It's north of Orion about six or eight degrees. Right now it's approximately eight degrees. Is it Gemini 8 Agena? Over.

M. CONTROL: Roger. We copy. Stand by.

GEMINI 10: Picture that it makes just about an equilateral triangle with the belt stars in Orion and with Pleidas. It's a . . .

M. CONTROL: Do you notice anything moving relative to the stars?

GEMINI 10: Possible. I haven't noticed any movements so far and unfortunately the stars are disappearing now and I can only see this object and one or two other first magnitude . . . sun starting to come.

There is one final "interesting example of an unexpected sighting of another spacecraft,"[12] as the Condon Report puts it. That was the UFO sighted by Gemini 11 astronauts. This is the startling description of that "unknown" from the NASA transcript:

> We had a wingman flying wing on us going into sunset here, off to my left. A large object that was tumbling at about 1 rps and we flew—we had him in sight, I say fairly close to us, I don't know, it could depend on how big he is and I guess he could have been anything from our ELSS (extravehicular life support system) to something else. We took pictures of it.[13]

What is the official interpretation of this unusual sighting? Here is NASA's interpretation, as quoted by the Condon Report:

> We have a report on the object sighted by Pete Conrad over Tenanarive yesterday on the 18th revolution. It has been identified by NORAD as the Proton III satellite. Since Proton III was more than

> 450 kilometers from Gemini I, it is unlikely that any photographs would show more than a point of light.[14]

The UFO was identified as a Proton III satellite which was 450 kilometers away! Reread the Gemini 11 astronaut's description: "We had a wingman flying wing on us going into sunset here off on my left . . . I say fairly close to us."[15]

The Condon Report does not seem to offer the correct explanation of this unusual sighting. But even if we were to discount the sighting of Gemini 11, the other Gemini sightings of UFOs stand as unexplained.

Scientists, of course, cannot be too careful. One case illustrates this well. On one mission an astronaut using a sextant was trying to plot his position by some "stars," or at least what he thought were stars. He soon found out that a computer differed with his own findings radically. A quick check revealed that the "stars" were in actuality urine droplets of the astronaut himself (recently dumped overboard), which were floating alongside his space capsule.

However, there were many sightings that our skeptical Condon committee reluctantly listed as unknowns. Furthermore, not only were Mercury and Gemini spacecraft escorted and buzzed by UFOs, but the space center at Cape Kennedy itself was from time to time during the sixties paid unexpected visits by these strange visitors from the skies.

Nor was this to be the end. The most dramatic, stunning and unexplainable encounters were to come during the Apollo voyages, man's journeyings to the Moon.

THE ONLY QUESTION THAT REMAINS IS, WHERE DO THEY COME FROM?
—Astronaut Edward Mitchell, commenting on UFOs.

CHAPTER 3

APOLLO ASTRONAUTS' ALIEN ENCOUNTERS ON AND AROUND THE MOON

The first Apollo Moon launching was to be Apollo 8. Our astronauts were to circle the Moon, study the area for the proposed Moon landing, make lunar and space tests and return. The men selected for this historic mission were Frank Borman, James Lovell and William Anders. They were to be the first human beings to orbit the Moon.

The blast-off and outward leg of the voyage to the Moon were successful and without incident. Finally, Borman, Lovell and Anders, the crew of Apollo 8, saw close-up what no man had ever seen with the naked eye before—the surface of the Moon frontside and back. Captain Lovell's description of the Moon's surface: "The Moon is essentially grey. No color. Looks like plaster of Paris."

In what was to be man's first television show from outer space, on that Christmas Eve of 1968, Apollo 8's camera revealed the strange alien surface of our Moon for all eyes to see. In one of the most moving moments in history Major Anders addressed the Earth with this message: "We are now approaching the lunar sunrise and for all the people back on Earth the crew of Apollo 8 have a message that we would like to send to you."

Then the trio of astronauts, Anders, Lovell and Bor-

man. took turns reading passages from the Book of Books, the Bible: "In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. And the earth was without form and void, and darkness was upon the face of the deep . . ."

But the first Apollo mission had its eerie moments too. On their first round of the Moon flight our astronauts sighted a "disc-shaped" object. The UFO swooped by them at various times and the astronauts complained of "blinding light" glaring in their eyes. They even claimed they felt "a wave of internal heat within the space capsule."[1] Alarmingly, their spacecraft unaccountably began to "pitch and yaw," causing them almost to lose control of it for a time. Moreover, from time to time through these weird experiences they heard strange radio noises which they described alternately as "intolerable high-frequency noises" and "weird garble."

Otto Binder, well-known UFO researcher and former NASA science writer who was awarded an honorary degree by NASA in tribute to his service, reported these strange encounters of Apollo 8. He asks: "The Apollo 8 tribulations sound very much like UFOnauts attempting to *prevent* our astronauts from rounding the moon. . . ."[2] As it turned out, however, this speculation, was without foundation.

A week after Borman, Lovell and Anders were back on Earth, news came of a remarkable Soviet space achievement, another Russian first. On January 16th, 1969, it was revealed that Soyuz 4 had docked in space with Soyuz 5, the first docking in outer space between two manned craft. When Soyuz zeroed in and the two locked together, it is reported that Colonel Vladimir Shatalov, the one-man crew of Soyuz 4, remarked: "I've been hunting all over for you." To which one of Soyuz's 5's crew replied: "Yes, and now you've raped us!"[3]

It was now believed that barring an unusual disaster the Soviet program would outdistance the American.

Apollo 10, the last lunar probe in preparation for the epochal touchdown on the surface of that strange alien

world, was set. This final tune-up, which some called the "dress rehearsal" for the big event, began on May 18th, 1969, at precisely 12:45.5 P.M. EDT, when the rocket blasted off and the great Saturn-Apollo 10 spaceship rose majestically from its firing pad. Piloting the Command Module, nicknamed *Charlie Brown*, was John Young, along with spacecraft Commander Thomas Stafford, and lunar module (nicknamed *Snoopy*) pilot Eugene Cernan.

NASA estimated that "more than a billion viewers all over the world" watched this exciting flight, as Apollo's specially developed 15-pound color TV camera performed flawlessly.

As the flight, which was leaving the Earth at over 24,000 mph, approached 40 miles altitude, Earth's great gravitational grip on the spaceship loosened and the lunar craft headed for the Moon.

As Apollo 10 approached the midway point on its long outward journey, the astronauts, feeling "just tremendous," listened to a tape of Andy Williams singing ". . . In My Beautiful Balloon." And Frank Sinatra's tape of "Fly Me to the Moon" was feebly received 130,000 miles away on Earth.

On May 21st, Apollo 10 swirled into an elliptical orbit around the Moon, coming as close as 60 nautical miles to its rugged surface. The crew got "absolutely unbelievable" views of the Moon in close-up—front and back—from *Charlie Brown.*

In preparation for the next Apollo journey that would land man on the Moon, the two astronauts in the lunar module (Stafford and Cernan) descended to a low point of only 50,000 feet for a close-up inspection of the preferred landing site for Apollo 11, the Sea of Tranquility. When the descent stage of the LM *Snoopy* was jettisoned (about 12 nautical miles above the surface of the Moon) the lunar module gyrated wildly for a few chilling moments. But the LM stabilized and then moved into an orbit which took man closer to the Moon's surface than he had ever been before. Cernan's

excited comment summed up the feelings of all: "Hello, Houston, we is down among it!"

After the harrowing malfunction of the guidance system the astronauts made a successful docking, at which point Houston Control broke out a large cartoon showing Snoopy kissing Charlie Brown. The accompanying balloon read: "Smack. You're right on target, Charlie Brown."

Eight days and three minutes after leaving launch pad at the Kennedy Space Center, Apollo 10 splashed down in the Pacific, lowering the curtain on this cosmic dress rehearsal mission for our first landing on the Moon.

America was now ready to land man on Luna. Although NASA's great success seemed to put America ahead in the race, the Russians were not exactly out of the running. Even as late as September 1968, half a year before the historic Apollo 10 flight, the Russians appeared to be ahead. Indeed, many space experts were expecting the Russians to make a grand try to send a man to the Moon before the Americans landed there with Apollo 11.

The first two Americans chosen for the flight were Neil Armstrong and Edwin "Buzz" Aldrin. The first man on the Moon, 38-year-old Neil Armstrong, commander of the flight, was considered by NASA as "probably the best jet pilot in the world." This remarkable young man had earned a flying license before he was old enough to get a driver's license. Edwin Aldrin, an Air Force colonel and a Doctor of Science in Astronautics, was called by some authorities at NASA "the astronaut's astronaut who never made mistakes." He was described "as a good man to have around on a voyage into the unknown." Interestingly, his father, a distinguished aviator in the 1920s, was the man who introduced the famed aviator Charles Lindbergh to Dr. Robert Goddard in the early days of rocketry.

The third member of the mission was 38-year-old Colonel Michael Collins of the United States Air Force, who was given the most unpleasant task in history: to fly

all the way to the Moon, and never actually land. Collins would circle the orb until his two colleagues—hopefully—returned, and they could all head back to Earth. If anything had gone wrong he would have been forced to leave them behind on the Moon and return alone. As he said, "If they have difficulty on the surface of the Moon, there's nothing I can do about it. . . . I don't think that will happen and if it did I would do everything that I could to help them, but they know, and I know, and Mission Control knows that there are certain categories of malfunctions where I just simply light the motor and come home without them."[4]

The biggest communications hookup in history, a two-million-mile stretch of land lines, undersea cable, radio circuits and communications satellites would give us contact with these men who were to leave the Earth. The Manned Space Flight Network, as it was called, depended for operation on a worldwide chain of radio antennas for the earth orbit stages of the mission, and three 85-foot-diameter antennas in Spain, California, and Australia for the stages thousands of miles from Earth. For Apollo 11 the network also used 17 ground stations, four ships, and eight Boeing 707 jets to cover the gaps between land stations and ships—especially over the vast Pacific area between Australia and Hawaii.

This network handled not only voice communications but the most essential part of the mission—allowing the computers on the ground and in the spacecraft to exchange data at the incredible speed of 2400 bits of information every second! Without the vast communications setup the Apollo 11 flight would have been impossible.

The danger, of course, was very real—although minimized by the careful, painstaking work of NASA. Critical parts or points existed everywhere and at all times. Beyond the danger of crashing or malfunction of life support systems was the very real threat of equipment failures of a *minor nature* that might leave the astronauts stranded in space, doomed to orbit the sun forever.

On the historic day, July 16th, 1969, nearly a million people converged on Cape Kennedy to see the blast-off of "The Big One," as Apollo 11 launch operations called it. The huge rocket roared into space at exactly 9:32.51 as a deluge of 50,000 gallons of water per minute poured onto the launch tower to cool and stop it from melting under the scorching blast of the firing rocket. The full impact of the fiery lift-off turned the concrete, despite the colossal water dousing, into glass.

The Saturn rocket whirled into orbit around the Earth, and Neil Armstrong, the flight commander, radioed: "We have no complaint with any of the three stages on that ride. It was beautiful." Half the Earth held its breath as the spaceship orbiting the Earth readied to depart for the Moon.

When their speed increased to 24,545 miles per hour Mission Control gave the signal: "You're looking good, you're go!" And the spacecraft of Apollo 11 tore out of the Earth's gravitational grip and began its long journey to the Moon.

APOLLO 11 MEETS A UFO

The spacecraft was one day out when the crew sighted an unusual object between their ship and the Moon. At first, they thought it was just the Saturn IV booster rocket. They called Houston for confirmation. But Houston told the Apollo 11 astronauts that the booster was over 6000 miles away.

This strange large object appeared to the astronauts to have a different appearance depending on how or where they viewed it. Here is a transcript from the astronauts' technical debriefing, which referred to this "unknown":

ALDRIN: The first unusual thing that we saw I guess was one day out or something pretty close to the moon. It

had a sizable dimension to it, so we put the monocular on it.

COLLINS: How'd we see this thing? Did we just look out the window and there it was?

ALDRIN: Yes, and we weren't sure but what it might be the S-IVB. We called the ground and were told the S-IVB was 6,000 miles away. We had a problem with the high gain about this time, didn't we?

COLLINS: There was something. We felt a bump or maybe I just imagined it.

ARMSTRONG: He was wondering whether the MESA had come off.

COLLINS: I don't guess we felt anything.

ALDRIN: Of course, we were seeing all sorts of little objects going by at the various dumps and then we happened to see this one brighter object going by. We couldn't think of anything else it could be other than the S-IVB. We looked at it through the monocular and it seemed to have a bit of an L shape to it.

ARMSTRONG: Like an open suitcase.

ALDRIN: We were in PTC at the time so each of us had a chance to take a look at this and it certainly seemed to be within our vicinity and of a very sizable dimension.

ARMSTRONG: We should say it was right at the limit of the resolution of the eye. It was very difficult to tell just what shape it was. And there was no way to tell the size without knowing the range or the range without knowing the size.

ALDRIN: So then I got down in the LEM and started looking for it in the optics. We were grossly misled because with the sextant off focus what we saw appeared to be a cylinder.

ARMSTRONG: Or really two rings.

ALDRIN: Yes.

ARMSTRONG: Two rings. Two connected rings.

COLLINS: No, it looked like a hollow cylinder to me. It didn't look like two connected rings. You could see this thing tumbling and, when it came around end-on,

you could look right down in its guts. It was a hollow cylinder. But then you could change the focus on the sextant and it would be replaced by this open-book shape. It was really weird.

ALDRIN: I guess there's not too much more to say about it other than it wasn't a cylinder.

COLLINS: It was during the period when we thought it was a cylinder that we inquired about the S-IVB and we'd almost convinced ourselves that's what it had to be. But we don't have any more conclusions than that really. The fact that we didn't see it much past this one period—we really don't have a conclusion as to what it might have been, how big it was, or how far away it was. It was something that wasn't part of the urine dump, we're pretty sure of that.

This UFO remains in the category of unknowns.

Three days after lift-off the Apollo 11 spacecraft went into lunar orbit. "All systems go," radioed Apollo 11. "Now going around the Moon. See you on the other side. Everything looks O.K." Seconds later radio contact with the command module was lost as it slipped around the back side of the Moon. Ten minutes later the first lunar insertion burn was made. Apollo 11 was now just 80 miles above the rugged lunar surface, as the main engine of the spacecraft braked Apollo down to a mere 3600 mph. As one lunar reporter put it: ". . . any more, and Apollo 11 would crash into the Moon; any less and the astronauts would sail beyond the Moon into a long trajectory which would eventually return them to earth."[5]

Now the Apollo 11 spacecraft command module named *Columbia* (an intentional echo of Jules Verne's prophetic *'Columbiad'*) and the lunar module named *Eagle* readied for the historic descent to the surface of the Moon. The docking collar which locked *Eagle* to *Columbia* was successfully released and Armstrong gave the good news to the world: "The *Eagle* has wings."

To which Collins, after firing the thrusters on *Colum-*

bia to pull away from *Eagle* and put it on its own, replied: "You've got a fine-looking flying machine there, *Eagle,* despite the fact that you're upside down."

Collins and the world watched as the two astronauts began their critical descent toward the carefully chosen flat lunar plains area called the Sea of Tranquility. "Looks real good," radioed the *Eagle.*

"Yes, everything is looking good to us," replied Mission Control. "Continue your powered descent."

But the landing area wasn't as good as it looked, for as Armstrong neared it, he could see it was far too rocky and rugged to risk a landing. The two American astronauts found themselves fast descending into a cratered area surrounded by jagged boulders, some of them as big as cars. Armstrong seized the manual controls of the lunar module vehicle and overflew the rocks, to come down about four miles from the originally designated landing site. There were a few, seemingly eternal moments of jitteriness, but the four landing pads touched the surface of the Moon and, seconds after, sensitive probes jabbing at the Moon's surface outside the craft signaled "lunar contact" on the control panel. The historic touchdown was 2:17 P.M. (Florida time).

At 10:56 P.M. (Florida time), Sunday, July 20th, 1969, man set foot on the alien surface of another world. Everyone remembers Armstrong's well-chosen words: "That's one small step for man, one giant leap for mankind."

Shortly after this historic moment the two astronauts unveiled the plaque attached to *Eagle*'s leg. "Here men from the planet Earth first set foot on the Moon, *July 1969 A.D.* We came in peace for all mankind."

Man's apocryphal science-fiction fantasy had become a reality.

THE APOLLO 'MOONMEN' HAVE VISITORS

The unexplainable event began as the Apollo 11 spacecraft approached the Moon, and the astronauts began hearing weird radio noise, variously likened to a "fire engine," loud sirens, buzz-saw sounds and train whistles, which interfered with the space communication hookup. Mission Control was so perplexed they asked: "You sure you don't have anybody else up there with you?"

The sounds continued intermittently but with varying intensity throughout the first few days of the Apollo 11 mission, making everyone, especially the astronauts, quite jittery. It was clear that the strange interruptive noises came from *outside* the Apollo spacecraft, and had to be radio signals. Were they from the Moon or a nearby UFO? No unidentified object or unknown was reported to have been sighted by Apollo 11 astronauts as they *approached** the Moon, although some investigators believe that such reports could have been silenced and suppressed, especially due to the fact that on this epoch-making voyage about half the planet Earth or approximately a billion people were watching. Some investigators claim that the Apollo 11 astronauts were to get their second look at a UFO on the surface of the Moon.

Former NASA space program member Otto Binder claims that significant portions of Mission Control–Apollo 11 conversations were deleted. Could these have dealt with UFOs sighted on and around the Moon? According to Binder, there is no question that since Cooper's initial sighting of an unidentified flying object on the Mercury flight of Faith 7, NASA warned its astronauts about their reporting of unknowns while on space flights.

Binder does report one *undocumented* story of a remarkable sighting of a UFO by Apollo 11 astronauts Aldrin and Armstrong on the Moon. Binder claims:

* Except for the strange earlier sighting already described.

"Certain sources with their own VHF receiving facilities that bypassed NASA broadcast outlets claim there was a portion of earth-moon dialogue that was quickly cut off by the NASA monitoring staff."[6]

Binder continues with this startling, almost unbelievable report: "It was presumably when the two moonwalkers, Aldrin and Armstrong, were making the rounds some distance from the LEM that Armstrong clutched Aldrin's arm excitedly and exclaimed: "What was it? What the hell was it? That's all I want to know."[7]

There followed further snatches of gasping interchanges between the two astronauts, with Mission Control also chiming in frantically.

MISSION CONTROL: What's there? . . . malfunction (garble) . . . Mission Control calling Apollo 11 . . .
APOLLO 11: These babies were huge, sir . . . enormous . . . Oh, God you wouldn't believe it! [What could Apollo 11 be referring to?] I'm telling you there are other spacecraft out there . . . lined up on the far side of the crater edge . . . they're on the moon watching us . . .[8]

Binder ends his report with this observation: "There has, understandably, been no confirmation of this incredible report by NASA or any authorities. We cannot vouch for its authenticity but if true, one can surmise that mission control went into a dither and then into a huddle, after which they sternly [ordered!] the moonwalkers to 'forget' what they saw and carry on casually and calmly as if nothing had happened. After all, an estimated 600 million people around the world were hanging on every word spoken by the first two men to leave footprints on the moon."[9]

APOLLO 12'S JOURNEY INTO THE UNKNOWN

Whether or not there is any truth to this *undocumented* report on the Apollo 11 sighting, there is widespread agreement by researchers (unquestionably backed up by authenticated evidence from NASA files) that mysterious, unexplainable things did happen on the expedition of Apollo 12.

First of all, our second manned mission to the Moon experienced an eerie beginning. When the great Saturn rocket hurled three astronauts—Charles "Pete" Conrad, Dick Gordon and Allan Bean—toward the Moon on Friday, November 14th, 1969, little did anyone realize what they were in for.

Less than a minute after blast-off, the Apollo spacecraft was hit by a bolt of lightning (11:22 A.M. EST, November 14th). With Apollo 12 barely a mile and a half above the Earth, virtually all of the electrical equipment in the spacecraft suddenly shut down, leaving row upon row of abruptly opened circuit breakers glowing ominously green.

"I don't know what happened here," said Spacecraft Commander Conrad. "We had everything in the world drop out." Even the vital inertial platform, heart of the sensitive guidance system charged with getting Apollo to the Moon and home again, was "just drifting all over the place."

Overloading triggered other functional equipment failures as, like dominoes toppling one after another, systems failed. Automatically the spacecraft's fuel cell system immediately disconnected, throwing the entire spacecraft's suddenly overburdened power output out of kilter, dropping it enough to shut down the telemetry system. It looked for a moment as if all would be lost, but the astronauts remained cool and within three minutes all power and ship's systems were restored.

The source of the bolt remained a mystery to our

space experts. Strangely enough, the nearest lightning was reported by the Weather Bureau to be more than 20 miles away!

As Apollo 12 headed toward the Moon, observatories all over Europe began reporting that they had sighted two bright flashing "unknown" objects in the craft's vicinity. Sighted through large telescopes, one object appeared to be "following" the spacecraft and the other seemed to be traveling in front of it. Both objects appeared to be blinking on and off rapidly.

The next day, Saturday, November 15th, the three Apollo 12 astronauts did report to Mission Control at Houston that they had sighted two bogeys or UFOs. They were then about 132,000 miles out on their mission. At 2:18 P.M. (CST) this report came in from the astronauts to Mission Control:

APOLLO 12: We have had an object which is in the same place all the time and appears to be tumbling. We have had it with us ever since yesterday and it just seems to be tagging along with us. . . . It's usually out our center hatch window when our roll angle is about 35 . . . maybe that will give you a clue and somebody can figure out . . . what we are really looking at.

What was Mission Control's explanation? It might be an S-IVB booster, jettisoned sla protective panel, or "it could be the backup crew flying train on you!"

Hardly the correct answers. After sighting the two strange bright objects at almost mid-voyage it was determined that they could not have been looking at the booster, which was beyond their viewing range by that time.

The Apollo 12–Mission Control running commentary:

APOLLO 12: O.K. I wonder what that could be then?
MISSION CONTROL: O.K. We'll go back to our drawing board.

APOLLO 12: The object is very bright and it is obviously something that is tumbling. It is tumbling one and one-half revs per second or at least it is flashing us about that. Dick is going to tell you what star it is nearing. He is messing with his chart right now.

MISSION CONTROL: Roger. We are standing by. 12, Houston.

APOLLO 12: Go ahead.

MISSION CONTROL: As best we can tell, looking at things down here—on those sla panels, we assume that they weren't traveling . . . like anything more than one or so feet per second when they separated. Your sla panels would probably be only about 300 miles away from you right now.

At this juncture Conrad interrupted Mission Control at Houston in its commentary to tell Ground Control that one of the objects "whatever it might be" had just flown off at a high rate of speed!

Picking up the verbatim commentary:

APOLLO 12: That could be true, but gee whiz, when we turned around, I saw one of those sla panels leaving the area at a high rate of speed and it looked to me like it was leaving us at a pretty good clip, like it got a lot more than a foot per second or so.

MISSION CONTROL: Well, since we really don't have any idea how they left or what their trajectory could be, it's kind of tough to say just what the heck that could be.

APOLLO 12: O.K. We'll assume its friendly anyway, O.K.?

MISSION CONTROL: If it makes any noise, it's probably just the wind in the rigging!

To make matters more mystifying, as the spacecraft got closer to the Moon, Ground Control's monitoring was stunned by "unexplainable sounds that seemed to be coming not from the space capsule or from Earth,

but from somewhere else." Someone from Ground Control suggested that the "astronauts must be talking to somebody strange now."[10]

What were these sounds variously described as beeps, whistles and, strangely enough, like Apollo 11's "fire engines"?

Apollo 12 astronauts heard them too. Here is the log:

BEAN: Do you hear a lot of background noises, Pete?
CONRAD: Kind of static and things?
BEAN: I keep hearing a whistle.
CONRAD: That's what I hear. O.K.

Ten minutes later astronaut Dick Gordon, in the command ship orbiting the Moon, reported to Mission Control:

GORDON: Hey, Houston, do you hear this constant beep in the background?
MISSION CONTROL: That's affirmative. We've heard it now for about the past 45 minutes.
GORDON: That's right, so have we. What is it?

But Ground Control never did determine the cause of these mysterious sounds, or at least never publicly admitted they did.

But the mystifying events were not over. Near the end of their climactic ten-day mission, on the homebound journey, as Apollo 12 passed over India (11:47 A.M.) November 24, the three astronauts reported they had sighted a bright red UFO flashing brilliantly below them and silhouetted against the Earth.

Here is their exact report:

APOLLO 12: Also right in the center of the Earth, now we have some real bright light shining, staying on that Dick is looking at it with the binoculars. It's real bright.
MISSION CONTROL: Roger. Understand. Does it appear

to be coming from your nadir point, which should be just off the eastern coast of India now?

APOLLO 12: Yes. Looks like it's coming just about out of the center of what we're looking at. I would say down from Burma and east of India.

MISSION CONTROL: Roger. That's just about your nadir.

APOLLO 12: I can't imagine what this is.

MISSION CONTROL: We can't either. We're checking the possibilities.

As checks were made the astronauts continued to see the luminous UFO.

APOLLO 12: It's a steady light and it appears in size to be as big as any of the thunderstorms flashing. It's as big as Venus at least.

MISSION CONTROL: Roger. Understand.

APOLLO 12: It's hard to tell if it is exactly in the center of the Earth or not. It's pretty close to being right in the center. Maybe just a little bit to our right—whatever that means. Just a little bit to the side that the Sun did not go behind the Earth on.

As the space capsule of Apollo 12 continued toward splash-down the astronauts watched and wondered. In a few minutes it disappeared.

After the unfortunate explosion aborted the Apollo 13 voyage an uneventful but invaluable Apollo 14 mission took place. Apollo 14 lifted off January 31, 1971, with Captain Alan Shepard, Jr., in command. (He was the first U.S. astronaut to make a suborbital flight back in 1961.) Accompanying him were Navy Commander Edgar Mitchell and Air Force Major Stuart Roosa.

THE EPOCHAL APOLLO 15 EXPEDITION

Then came the epochal Apollo 15 expedition, which some scientists have called "the greatest trip in the his-

tory of scientific exploration." Appropriately, the command module of Apollo 15 was named *Endeavour* in honor of the ship that Captain James Cook commanded on his also epochal scientific voyage just two centuries before. Apollo 15 even took a Cook memento—a small block of wood which was a piece of the sternpost of Cook's vessel, the *Endeavour*.

Apollo 15 astronauts David R. Scott, James B. Irwin and Alfred M. Worden landed the lunar module *Falcon* at the intriguing Hadley-Apennine site, touching down in a boulder-filled, crater-pocked lunar plain. Apollo 15, called the most productive mission up to that time, also was the most dangerous because of the rugged terrain of the landing in the debris-strewn valley at the foot of the towering lunar Apennines. Near here, Mt. Hadley towers over 4600 meters, rising above the plain to more than 10 times the height of the Empire State Building. Nearby, Hadley Rille, to which the astronauts would pay a visit, wanders like an empty river canyon. The rille is about 1.5 kilometers wide and 400 meters deep. It has been referred to as the "Grand Canyon" of the Moon.

Later, we shall come back to Hadley Rille to examine some of the mystifying findings of this expedition. For now, let's consider just one fascinating Apollo 15 experience as recorded by NASA:

CAPCOM: You talked about something mysterious . . .
ORION: O.K., Gordy, when we pitched around, I'd like to tell you about something we saw around the LM. When we were coming about 30 or 40 feet out, there were a lot of objects—white things—flying by. It looked like they were being propelled or ejected, but I'm not convinced of that.
CAPCOM: We copy that Charlie.

What could these mysterious flying objects have been? About all we're left with from such a sketchy description is a handful of puzzling questions: Can this be

considered another UFO sighting? What did the astronaut mean when he reported that these peculiar "white things" were *perhaps* "being propelled or ejected"? And by whom?

THE STUNNING SIGHTINGS OF APOLLO 16

Apollo 16 was another scientifically rich expedition, this time to a highlands area, Descartes. It was also an area of rugged terrain and therefore more dangerous than earlier Apollo missions. While Ken Mattingly orbited overhead in the command module *Casper,* Commander John Young and LM pilot Charles Duke, looking outside their landing craft, could see piles of glistening white and pink boulders, some of them as large as automobiles.

There were some things that happened on the Apollo 16 expedition that everyone finds hard to believe. Astronaut Ken Mattingly was startled as he orbited the Moon by a light that flashed across the lunar sky. It disappeared behind the lunar horizon.

NASA scientist Farouk El Baz admits that lunar authorities at first considered it a micrometeorite coming in toward the Moon and hitting somewhere beyond the field of vision, or perhaps a fragment of something flashing by the window. They have since discounted these explanations. Another widely talked about theory was that these "flashing lights" were the effects of cosmic rays striking the optic nerves inside of the astronauts' heads. However, El Baz denied this could be a possibility in an interview with *Saga* magazine:[11]

Saga: What were these sightings? Were they cosmic ray flashes? Did they occur in the heads of the astronauts or were they actually outside their bodies?

EL BAZ: Outside their bodies because Ken Mattingly did not see any of the flashes that the other guys had been seeing—in the tests that had been made for the

cosmic rays that penetrated the skull, brain, and optic nerve. Apparently his physical constitution—his optic nerve, whatever—was such that he was not able to record the light flashes that all the other guys had been recording. And I really don't think they know anything about it at all.

Saga: Were those cosmic rays penetrating the retina or the brain itself?

EL BAZ: The optic nerve. Almost every astronaut in flight from the Earth to Moon or back reported that when they closed their eyes they would see these flashes. What Ken Mattingly saw, however, was *beyond* the spacecraft, way out beyond the Moon, and finally disappearing behind the lunar horizon. It was a very peculiar phenomenon, and at first we considered several things—one, a cosmic ray so large or so powerful that it was only an illusion that he saw—two, a piece of dust that was suspended for a moment in front of his window and he did not have the right perspective to see whether it was way back or very close to the spacecraft because it disappeared fast—three, a micrometeorite actually coming in toward the Moon and hitting somewhere beyond his field of vision, or—four, *since none of these fit the facts, they must remain in the category of UFOs.* [Author's italics.]

Saga: Couldn't it be traced?

EL BAZ: It struck somewhere beyond the horizon where he would not have been able to see it or see the result of what it did. No one else did, either. It was definitely a large object. But it was certainly not any spacecraft that we know of because it was moving too fast. No Russian or American spacecraft can move that fast, either on or near the Moon.

Saga: Well, since everybody seems to know that there have been no extraterrestrial landings on the Moon . . .

EL BAZ: (interrupting) Ah, but we don't know that there have been no extraterrestrial landings on the Moon! It has not been so thoroughly mapped as

some think. It has been pretty thoroughly *photographed,* but with a resolution of one or two miles, that is, the smallest object you can see in many of these pictures is a mile across. *We cannot possibly rule out that extraterrestrial objects may be on or under the lunar surface.*[12] [Author's italics.]

There was one other occasion when Ken Mattingly saw a flash on the Moon, but this one is definitely in the doubtful category. Here is the transcript:

APOLLO 16, April 22, 1972

DUKE: Tony, what is the other peak?
CAPCOM: Right of the cosmic ray experiment.
DUKE: O.K., I'll cross F-11 250 at 15.
YOUNG: O.K., Houston, I just picked up this white rock, but it has a black glass layer on the back of it, a thick black glass and it's about (garble) specimen.
CAPCOM: Scramble. Hey fellow, Ken was just flying over and he saw a flash on the side of Descartes—he probably got a glint of you?
DUKE: Oh sure, that's us. Men of miracles. We're dusty.
YOUNG: Don't step right here, Charlie, there's a splatter, a glass splatter. A whole big bubble of it, isn't it?

THE FLIGHT OF APOLLO 17—THE END OF AN EPOCH

The flight of Apollo 17 brought the curtain down on NASA's great cosmic show. At least for the time being. But it is probably only the first act of an endless space drama for man.

This final expedition was remarkably different in that it carried the only professional trained scientist to the Moon, namely, Dr. Harrison H. Schmitt.

Schmitt shared the cabin of the spaceship *America* with Commander Eugene Cernan and Command Module Pilot Ronald E. Evans.

A blast-off lifted six and one-half million pounds of spacecraft and men and hurled them across the open vistas of space a quarter of a million miles to their destination, the valley of Taurus-Littrow, near the coast of the great solid Sea of Serenity. This was a site that Harrison Schmitt himself felt "[would] richly reward those who read the library of the planets."[13]

The Moon was proving to be a UFO paradise also, and Apollo 17 proved to be the richest mission of them all for sighting these unknowns, about which NASA scientist Farouk El Baz admitted:

> The one thing I can't explain—that I do not know about or what it could be are those enormous flashes of light. There's no question about it, they are very tremendous things, not comets, not natural. Three were seen over the western part of the Moon, one by Ken Mattingly on Apollo 16 and two by Ron Evans and Harrison Schmitt on Apollo 17.[14]

APOLLO 17: Ground to Air

COMMAND MODULE PILOT (CMP): What are you learning?

GROUND CONTROL (GC): Hot spots on the Moon, Jack.

CMP: Where are your big anomalies? Can you summarize quickly?

GC: Jack, we'll get that for you on the next pass.

CMP: Hey, I can see a bright spot down there on the landing site where they might have blown off some of that halo stuff.

GC: Roger. Interesting. Very—go to KILO KILO. [Code?—author's note.]

CMP: Hey, it's gray now and the number one extends . . .

GC: Roger. We got it. And we copy that it's all the way down there. Go to KILO KILO on that.

CMP: Mode is going to HM. Recorder is off. Lose a little communication there, huh? Okay, there's Bravo,

Bravo, select OMNI. Hey, you know, you'll never believe it. I'm right over the edge of Orientale. I just looked down and saw the light flash again.

GC: Roger. Understand.

CMP: Right at the end of the rille.

GC: Any chance of—?

CMP: That's on the east of Orientale.

GC: You don't suppose it could be Vostok [a Russian space probe]?

CMP: I'll be damned. I've got to mark that spot on the map!

When command module pilot Ronald Evans "reported the object he saw with flashing lights on the eastern edge of Orientale Crater, Houston asked," observes *Saga* reporter Joseph Goodavage, " 'You don't suppose it could be Vostok?' "

Goodavage points out: "Houston acted as casually as if he'd just reported the temperature. Who'd ever expect to find an obsolete Russian spaceship (one that wasn't supposed to be *able* to reach the Moon in the first place) sitting in a lunar crater flashing its lights? It wasn't meant as a joke, whimsy or a flight of fancy because Evans took it seriously and it came up once more on the next orbit."[15]

Whether or not it is true that Houston took it calmly, they did seem to insist on switching to some prearranged code: KILO KILO. They continued to use these various possible code words from then on: BRAVO, BRAVO, SELECT OMNI. Was this an instance where NASA was trying to cover up a UFO sighting on the Moon? There are authorities who claim that NASA has kept a lid of secrecy on such sightings. According to a top space research scientist, Dr. Garry Henderson, "All our astronauts have seen these objects (UFOs), but have been ordered not to discuss their sightings with anyone."[16] Henderson even claims that NASA "has many actual photos of these crafts, taken at close range by hand and movie cameras."[17]

Ron Evans saw two UFOs on this Apollo 17 flight and Harrison Schmitt one.

Here is an interesting conversation about another of those sightings:

APOLLO 17, Dec. 29, 1972

CAPCOM: America, Houston. We'd like you to hold off switching to OMNI Charlie until we cue you on that.

COMMAND MODULE PILOT (CMP): Wilco.

LUNAR MODULE PILOT (LMP): Was there any indication on the seismometers on the impact about the time I saw a light flash on the surface?

CAPCOM: Stand by. We'll check on that, Jack.

LMP: A UFO perhaps, don't worry about it. I thought somebody was looking at it. It could have been one of the other flashes of light.

CAPCOM: Roger. We copied the time and . . .

LMP: I have the place marked.

CAPCOM: Passed it on to the back room.

LMP: O.K. I've got it marked on the map, too.

CAPCOM: Jack, just some words from the back room for you. There may have been an impact at the time you called, but the Moon is still ringing from the impact of the S-IVB impact. So it would mask any other impact. So they may be able to strip it out at another time, but right now they don't see anything at the time you called.

LMP: Just my luck. Just looking at the southern edge of Grimaldi, Bob, and—and that Graben is pre-Mare. Pre-Mare!

CAPCOM: O.K., I copy on that, Jack. And as long as we're talking about Grimaldi we'd like to have you brief Ron exactly on the location of that flashing light you saw . . . We'll probably ask him to take a picture of it. Maybe during one of his solo periods.

This last conversation makes it obvious that both our astronauts and NASA do not take these sightings of

light or UFOs lightly. Maps were marked and photographs were taken at the sites of these occurrences.

As we shall see, there is much more evidence of aliens on or about our Moon that has been hushed up by our government. What can't be quieted is the major story of this book—the true alien nature of our strange companion world, the Moon.

THERE IS NO CONCENSUS REGARDING THE ORIGIN OF THE MOON.

—A. E. Ringwood, Geochemist
Australian National University

CHAPTER 4

MYSTERIES OF THE MOON WORLD ITSELF

The greatest mystery that haunts mankind today is that most familiar object in man's neighboring skies, the Moon. The first question to ask is what is the Moon? (And where did it come from?) Even after half a dozen Apollo missions we can only guess.

Four hundred years ago people were asking the same question: What is the Moon made of? "Green cheese" may be a facetious answer, but before man went to the Moon to find out the makeup of this alien world scientists seriously debated whether the Moon was like the Earth or completely different in composition; they argued whether or not the Moon's surface was frozen or like peanut brittle; whether it was nothing but jagged cliffs and treacherous peaks; whether its surface was covered with a thick mantle of powdery dust which spaceships and men upon landing might drown in; or even, as one Moon specialist proposed, whether the Moon was "like an Afghan hound, with long, hairlike material."

Besides not knowing what the Moon is, we do not know how it got here. The mysteries of its birth still befuddle science today.

MYSTERY #1: IS THE MOON A CELESTIAL FREAK OF NATURE?

Even before man journeyed to Luna, scientists like Isaac Asimov had pointed out that the Moon is really a freak of celestial nature, for by all cosmic laws *she should not be circling the Earth.* Why do some scientists make such an astounding statement? Simply because no other planet in our solar system has a satellite circling it that is so large, so massive in relationship to the size of the world it circles.

The Moon is a whopping one-fourth of Earth's size. The next largest satellite circling a planet that is anywhere near that ratio is whirling around Jupiter, and it is only one-eightieth the size of its master. Because of the Moon's proportionally great size some scientists have even labeled the Earth-Moon combination an actual double planetary system.

Discussing the problems of "having the Moon where it is," Dr. Asimov asks:

> . . . ought we to be amazed about it? After all, the moon does exist and it is there. Why not accept it?
>
> The answer to that is that in studying the rest of the solar system we cannot help but come to the conclusion that the moon by rights ought not to be there. The fact that it is, is one of those strokes of luck almost too good to accept. . . . Small planets, such as earth, with weak gravitational fields, might well lack satellites. Pluto has no known satellites, neither have Mercury and Venus. . . . Yet earth, quite surprisingly, does have a satellite—the moon.
>
> But wait a bit. I haven't mentioned Mars. Mars, although only 1/10th as massive as earth, has *two* satellites. What about that?

> Well, it's not just having satellites. It's primarily the size of those satellites. . . . In general, then, when a planet does have satellites, those satellites are *much* smaller than the planet itself. Therefore even if the earth has a satellite, there would be every reason to suspect . . . that at best it would be a tiny world, perhaps 30 miles in diameter.
>
> But that is not so. Earth not only has a satellite, but it is a giant satellite, 2160 miles in diameter. How is it then, that tiny earth has one? Amazing.[1]

But the Moon is a celestial freak in several other respects. Almost all other satellites in the solar system circle their respective planets in the plane of the orb's equator. But not our Moon. Its orbit instead lies strangely closer to the Earth's orbit around the sun. Puzzled scientists wonder: Why is our Moon circling the Earth outside this usual equatorial planetary orbit? They do not know.

And there are other strange mysteries about the Moon.

MYSTERY #2: THE MYSTIFYING BULGE OF THIS LOPSIDED WORLD

The Moon's shape also shows it to be a freak among satellites of the solar system. Not that out-of-the-round worlds are unusual. Probably no planet is perfectly round. Even our Earth is out of whack: slightly more flattened and broader than a sphere, larger at the equator than around its poles.

But there is something unexplainable about the Moon's huge bulge. Scientists at first felt this distortion was due to the tremendous pull of our much larger Earth. But then they discovered to their amazement that our Moon does not, and probably never did, have the shape demanded by the tidal theory. (Our Moon's bulge is seventeen times greater than the tidal theory can ac-

count for.) And what is more mystifying is the fact (as man learned after he got up there) that this bulge is not even on the side facing the Earth. Clearly, the tidal theory accounting for the bulge is out the scientific window. Today, lunar experts are figuratively standing on their heads trying to explain why this bulge is *not on the side facing the Earth*, but on the opposite side which, to man's knowledge, has never faced our planet!

Another question plaguing scientists is how the Moon manages to support this great bulge. As one lunar expert points out: "This bulge is a non-equilibrium one and must be supported by some curious internal characteristic of the moon, such as great strength of the interior or some variation in density of the body of the moon."[2]

What peculiar internal strength lies within the body of the Moon itself to support this great bulge? Scientists are still dumbfounded.

MYSTERY #3: THE MYSTERY OF THE MOON'S CRATERS

Anyone who has ever looked at the Moon through a telescope is struck by two major features that dominate the surface of this rugged world: myriads of craters and the dark-colored plains that earthbound man mistakenly dubbed maria, or seas.

Craters are rare on Earth. Yet the Moon is a pock-marked world containing millions of these peculiar holes, some of them as small as coins; others so large that entire countries could well fit inside them.

Some of the Moon's many craters are dozens of miles in diameter. In fact, about a third of a million of them —certainly well over 300,000—are more than a half a mile in diameter—the size of the great Arizona crater, which is one of the largest on our planet.

There are two chief theories as to the cause of craters' formation. Most of the scientists involved now agree that the vast majority of the craters on the Moon are

caused by the impact of meteors or asteroids. The latest evidence of the Apollo expeditions backs up this theory. Before man went to the Moon, however, the scientific community was divided on this question. Some lunar experts, like Dr. Jack Green, asserted that the vast majority of craters—like most other lunar features—are volcanic in origin, that is, caused by the volcanic action of a hot interior. But even Green admitted that "there must be some large lunar impact craters, for there are such craters on Earth."[3]

However, why Earth and the Moon, worlds which have revolved around each other for eons, should be so different on the surface is puzzling. Scientists are quick to point out that the Moon has no atmosphere to speak of and all metorites, even the smallest, hit with full force. On our planet, the vast majority are burnt up in our thick ocean of air long before they hit the surface. This is the reason why the pock-marked lunar surface makes its fabled "cheese" impression.

Although this explanation partially solves the problem, it would seem that if the Moon and Earth shared the same ceaseless orbit of the sun, the larger cosmic bodies heading in our direction would not have entirely burnt up in our atmosphere before hitting. Yet less than a score of such craters can be found on Earth; millions on the Moon. Is this an indication that the Moon developed elsewhere?

But the strangest anomaly of all concerning the Moon's craters is that despite their fantastic size, even the largest gaping holes are surprisingly shallow. Craters fifty, even one hundred miles in diameter are no more than a mere two to three miles deep.

What is the reason for this strange phenomenon? It has been calculated that a meteor of one million tons would be equal in explosive force to a one-megaton (one-million-ton) atomic bomb. We know that meteors weighing one million million tons have clobbered the lunar surface. Yet they've left only broad, shallow holes.

Consider the crater Clavius. It has an overall diameter of 146 miles—a greater inside area than all of Switzerland and Luxembourg. Yet, at its deepest point it is less than three miles down. The force that hit there outdid Hiroshima or Nagasaki hundreds of times over; an explosion that likely sent millions of tons of lunar rock hurling over miles and miles. One would certainly expect to find there a great hole scores of miles deep, but Clavius's depth is a mere two to three miles.

Even conservative estimates by scientists indicate that meteors ten miles or more in diameter should have penetrated the Moon's surface to a depth four or five times that diameter, yet the deepest moon crater we know about (the Gagarin Crater) is 186 miles across but less than four miles deep.

The conclusion some scientists draw is that there is something extremely tough and strong under the shallow lunar surface, beneath the thin layers of rock and dirt covering this mysterious sphere, that prevented deep holes. What could that tough, strong "thing" be?

Other scientists have another theory, well-explained in a *National Geographic* article on lunar craters:

> The very large craters were originally as much as six or seven miles deep, and the largest of the circular maria—Imbrium—may have been 50 miles deep for a very brief time. . . . The bottoms of these vast chasms rose to compensate for the loss of material. In addition, volcanic material has partially filled many of the pits.
>
> As Dr. John O'Keefe of NASA's Goddard Space Center at Greenbelt, Maryland, puts it, "The moon just won't accept an insult like that. It reacts!"[4]

Still many scientists wonder why not a single crater exists on the Moon today that is six or seven miles deep, let alone fifty! Perhaps there is another answer to this problem . . .

MYSTERY #4: THE MYSTIFYING MARIA OF THE MOON

Anyone who has ever looked at the Moon on a clear night has noticed peculiar dark patches that cover large parts of its surface. Astronomers in the 17th century thought that these dark areas were seas and so dubbed them by the Latin name for seas, *maria.* Three of these huge dark spots form the "man in the moon": Mare Imbrium (Seas of Rains) makes up the right eye; Mare Serenitatis (Sea of Serenity) and Mare Tranquillitatis (Sea of Tranquility), his left. These so-called seas are really dark level areas or plains, loaded with dark mineral ores, like iron.

The bottoms of some of the deepest and largest craters also have the same dark surfaces. The Crater Marius, for instance, which is 25 miles in diameter, has such a floor.

These huge seas are the largest and most extensive of all lunar landscape features on the side facing the Earth. In fact, about one third of the entire earthside half of the Moon consists of these strange dark areas.

Some of these maria are immense. One, for example, Oceanus Procellarus—the so-called Sea of Storms—is over two million square miles—larger than the entire Mediterranean Sea. The Sea of Serenity is about the size of Great Britain and France put together.

How were these huge dark areas formed? Some scientists believe they are merely seas of lava poured out from an extremely hot Moon's interior when the lunar world was very young. Other scientists feel that there could not be enough lava inside the Moon to account for all the immense maria. Still others feel that the Moon itself is too small an orb to heat up to the extent of causing all this lava to flow.

Other scientists argue that these strange flat plains

were caused by collisions with huge meteors or asteroids or even comets, collisions which caused molten rock to be produced from the tremendous explosions when they hit.

Mare Imbrium—the Sea of Rains—encompasses an area about 340,000 square miles, and 750 miles in diameter! What kind of a cosmic missile caused this? A massive meteor or giant asteroid that hit the Moon eons ago? Most astronomers believe that a celestial missile of this type did hit there billions of years ago. If such a missile had hit Earth it would have had enough explosive force to dig out the Gulf of Mexico and lift the Rocky Mountains right out of the bowels of our planet in one fell swoop. It should have ripped a hole hundreds of miles deep, but strangely it did not.

Whether the maria were formed by the impact of meteors and asteroids or by the volcanic action of a hot interior spewing forth oceans of lava is still debated today, despite half a dozen manned trips to the Moon. Whatever started the process, the maria do appear to have been caused by a general upwelling from below the lunar crust; seas of lava overflowing these areas.

There is yet another mystery of the maria—the way they are shaped and distributed. Many appear to be circular in shape, conforming strangely and with striking accuracy to the general spherical shape of this mystery world. Also, four-fifths of the Moon's maria are found in the right-hand section or area of the Moon's earthside hemisphere. Why this should be is strange.

Still another mystery is why these areas appear to be so empty of craters. It is against all odds that such vast areas have escaped bombardment, yet, in comparison with the rest of the Moon, they are relatively free of craters. Some scientists believe scars of meteoric bombardment and debris were covered up when lava flows welled up through the area.

MYSTERY #5: THE MYSTERIOUS MASCONS

As we have seen, many peculiarities make the maria, or lunar plains, one of the Moon's most mysterious areas. But matters became even more complicated when Apollo 8's crew, while passing over these mysterious seas, found the spaceship accelerating and giving a slightly downward pull.

Every lunar probe to go over certain maria areas did the same—dipped slightly and accelerated. Scientists now theorize that the gravitational pull in these areas is stronger than in other places on the Moon due to their greater density, or concentration of mass. They nicknamed these spots *mascons* (*mass con*centrations) for short.

On successive flights the lunar Apollo program discovered similar mascons in many of the maria areas, each of which betrayed their presence by distorting the orbits of spacecraft passing over or near them. Why these mapped-out regions of greater gravity should exist, however, is a mystery.

Some scientists theorize that these mass concentrations might be made up of excessively large masses of rock. Other scientists disagree because such large objects would have sunk out of the surface area and dissipated in a hot moon.

There is yet another peculiar fact about mascons. Scientists, in mapping the various mascons, noticed that they are located in only the circular seas, and in a few of the circular dark-floored craters. They are not found in the irregular maria. Is this just an unlikely coincidental occurrence, or does it have a significance yet to be understood? Two senior members of the Soviet Academy of Sciences believe the latter, as we shall see.

MYSTERY #6: WHY IS THE FAR SIDE OF THE MOON SO DIFFERENT FROM THE EARTHSIDE

One of the most tantalizing discoveries that man made when orbiting the Moon was what the dark side of the world really looked like. Because the Moon moves in an almost perfectly synchronized orbit around the Earth (actually we move around each other), the Moon shows the same face to our planet.

Many wild guesses were made about the unseen side of the Moon. Some UFO researchers claimed that UFO bases existed on the far side and that was where all the unidentified flying objects were emanating from. Some even claimed there could be cities and centers of extra-terrestrial civilizations there. Most scientists, however, felt that the far side of the Moon was much like the near side—a lifeless world of pock-marked holes, lunar plains and rugged mountains.

When the Russians first photographed the dark side of the Moon they, and the world, were amazed by its startling difference. While far more pock-marked with craters and riddled with mountains, the dark side strangely, has few maria.

Why should these massive dark plains be so prevalent on the earthside and so lacking on the far? The reasons still mystify scientists.

MYSTERY #7: THE LIGHTNESS AND LOW DENSITY OF THE MOON.

The Moon has only 60 percent of the density of Earth. The improbable fact that an equal amount of earth material seemed to weigh almost twice as much as moon matter mystified everyone. Why the difference? The actual answer, some scientists felt, pointed to the possibility that part or all of the Moon's interior was hollow!

MYSTERY #8: EVIDENCE OF A HOLLOW MOON?

In 1962 Dr. Gordon McDonald, a leading scientist at the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, published a report in the July issue of *Astronautics.* In it he states that according to an analysis of the Moon's motion, it appears that the Moon is hollow: "If the astronomical data are reduced, it is found that the data require that the interior of the Moon be less dense than the outer parts. Indeed, it would seem that the Moon is more like a hollow than a homogeneous sphere."[5]

It should be made clear that McDonald does not believe the Moon to be hollow. This scientist—perhaps realizing that the majority are convinced that there is no such thing as a planet or planetoid in space which is *naturally* hollow—does not suggest that such is the case. "This suggests that there are inconsistencies either in the reduction of the observations of the Moon's motions or in the numerical development of the lunar theory."[6]

Thus, rather than accept the basic conclusion of the study, McDonald believes that something is wrong, either with the data or the observations.

MYSTERY #10: IS THE MOON A SISTER, DAUGHTER OR SPOUSE OF THE EARTH?

As we have seen, many scientists insist that the Moon, due to its size, is really a celestial freak. This brings us to that fascinating and most basic question of questions: Where did the Moon come from? What is its origin?

Did it come into being at about the same time as the Earth as a sort of sister planet? Or did the Earth at some early stage divide like a celestial amoeba, giving birth to Luna as a sort of daughter? Perhaps the Moon came from somewhere else, perhaps even from out of

our own solar system only to be captured by the Earth to become in effect the celestial spouse of the Earth.

These are the three major hypotheses of the origin o the Moon, all of which had adherents before man jour neyed to that world to get first-hand information.

The old theory of George Darwin (son of Charle Darwin, the father of the theory of evolution) pro pounded that the Moon was once a part of the Earth and later separated from it in an unexplained act of ce lestial fission. Harvard astronomer W.H. Pickerin adopted a form of this theory, holding that the Moon i actually a piece of the Earth ripped out of the Pacifi area.

When I read this theory as a youth in high school was fascinated by it. The Pacific did seem large enough and there did exist in the Pacific a volcanic and earth quake "ring of fire," perhaps evidence of the birth pang of the Moon leaving the womb of Mother Earth. But w now know that the difficulties of celestial mechanic make this theory an unlikely, if not an impossible one Even before man landed on the Moon the vast majorit of scientists no longer held that the Moon is the celestia daughter of Earth.

The hypothesis that it is a sister world, formed a about the same primordial time as our planet, from th same cloud of cosmic gas and dust, and finally con densed after eons into a solid, separate world, becom ing Earth's natural satellite, had more scientific support

However, the big difference in density caused som scientists to doubt the validity of the theory. As we hav seen, the Moon is only about 60 percent as dense as th Earth. The clincher for most scientists came later, whe they found how that world differs so markedly in com positional makeup from our own.

The only other explanation is that the Moon cam into being separately, from somewhere else in the sola system, or even from outside it. Then, it was somehow captured in the Earth's gravitational field.

The Moon does seem to be a stranger to our part of the sky, being of different density and composition. Is it possible, as more and more scientists are coming to think, that she might be a giant asteroid or planetoid captured when she came close enough to be gripped permanently by Earth's gravitational field? Even this theory has serious hitches.

Aside from the fact that a gravitational catch of this kind is extremely improbable, it is even more unlikely when there is only one moon involved. Moreover, it is difficult to understand how the Moon could have approached the Earth at just the right angle and speed to be caught gravitationally and hooked into orbit around us in a permanent satellite union with our planet.

The Moon's own orbit is the best argument against such an unlikely catch, for its orbit is too nearly circular and synchronized. Such a gravitational capture should have produced a rather elongated, elliptical orbit, instead of the nearly circular path the Moon now follows around the Earth. And there are other technical celestial difficulties that make such an act of cosmic body-snatching unlikely; in fact, even nearly impossible according to many scientists. The Moon would have to have been steered into orbit around our Earth.

Surprisingly, two senior scientists—Mikhail Vasin and Alexander Shcherbakov—at the Soviet Academy of Sciences maintain that this is precisely what happened. Their theory, which appeared in *Sputnik* magazine, a Soviet periodical published in English, states that *the Moon is not a natural satellite of Earth, but a huge, hollowed-out planetoid fashioned by some highly advanced, technologically sophisticated civilization into an artificial "inside out" world which was steered into orbit around the Earth eons ago!*

Wild? Even wilder is the fact that all of the aforementioned mysteries about Earth's neighbor disappear if their theory is applied.

The following is the theory—in its entirety—from *Sputnik*:

IS THE MOON THE CREATION OF INTELLIGENCE?

by Mikhail Vasin and Alexander Shcherbakov, scientists

Although people long long ago began to wonder whether the "canals" on Mars were the creation of cosmic engineers, for some odd reason it has not occurred to look with the same eyes upon the peculiarities of the lunar landscape much closer at hand. And all the arguments about the possibilities of intelligent life existing on other celestial bodies have been confined to the idea that other civilisations must necessarily live on the surface of a planet, and that the interior as a habitat is out of the question.

Abandoning the traditional paths of "common sense," we have plunged into what may at first sight seem to be unbridled and irresponsible fantasy. But the more minutely we go into all the information gathered by man about the Moon, the more we are convinced that there is not a single fact to rule out our supposition. Not only that, but many things so far considered to be lunar enigmas are explainable in the light of this new hypothesis.

AN ARTIFICIAL SPUTNIK OF THE EARTH?

The origin of the Moon is one of the most complicated problems of cosmogony. So far there have been basically three hypotheses under discussion.

HYPOTHESIS I. *The Moon was once a part of the Earth and broke away from it.*

This has now been refuted by the evidence.

HYPOTHESIS II. *The Moon was formed independently from the same cloud of dust and gas as the Earth, and immediately became the Earth's natural satellite.*

But then why is there such a big difference between the specific gravity of the Moon (3.33 grammes per cubic centimetre) and that of the Earth (5.5 gr.)? Furthermore, according to the latest information (analysis of samples brought back by the U.S. Apollo astronauts) lunar rock is not of the same composition as the Earth's.

HYPOTHESIS III. *The Moon came into being separately, and, moreover, far from the Earth (perhaps even outside the Solar system).*

This would mean that the Moon would not have to be fashioned from the same "clay" as our own planet. Sailing through the Universe, the Moon came into the Earth's proximity, and by a complex interplay of forces of gravity was brought within a geocentric orbit, very close to circular. But a catch of this kind is virtually impossible.

In fact, scientists studying the origin of the Universe today have no acceptable theory to explain how the Earth-Moon system came into being.

OUR HYPOTHESIS: *The Moon is an artificial Earth satellite put into orbit around the Earth by some intelligent beings unknown to ourselves.*

We refuse to engage in any speculation about who exactly staged this unique experiment, which only a highly developed civilisation was capable of.

A NOAH'S ARK?

If you are going to launch an artificial sputnik, then it is advisable to make it hollow. At the same

time it would be naive to imagine that anyone capable of such a tremendous space project would be satisfied simply with some kind of giant empty trunk hurled into a near-Earth trajectory.

It is more likely that what we have here is a very ancient spaceship, the interior of which was filled with fuel for the engines, materials and appliances for repair work, navigation instruments, observation equipment and all manner of machinery . . . in other words, everything necessary to enable this "caravelle of the Universe" to serve as a kind of Noah's Ark of intelligence, perhaps even as the home of a whole civilization envisaging a prolonged (thousands of millions of years) existence and long wanderings through space (thousands of millions of miles).

Naturally, the hull of such a spaceship must be super-tough in order to stand up to the blows of meteorites and sharp fluctuations between extreme heat and extreme cold. Probably the shell is a double-layered affair—the basis a dense armouring of about 20 miles in thickness, and outside it some kind of more loosely packed covering (a thinner layer—averaging about three miles). In certain areas—where the lunar "seas" and "craters" are, the upper layer is quite thin, in some cases, non-existent.

Since the Moon's diameter is 2,162 miles, then looked at from our point of view it is a thin-walled sphere. And, understandably, not an empty one. There could be all kinds of materials and equipment on its inner surface. But the greatest proportion of the lunar mass is concentrated in the central part of the sphere, in its core, which has a diameter of 2,062 miles.

Thus the distance between the kernel and the shell of this nut is in the region of 30 miles. This space was doubtless filled with gases required for

breathing, and for technological and other purposes.

With such an internal structure the Moon could have an average specific gravity of 3.3 grammes per cubic centimetre, which differs considerably from that of the Earth (5.5 grammes per cubic centimetre).

A BATTLESHIP THEY COULDN'T TORPEDO?

The most numerous and interesting of the formations on the lunar surface are the craters. In diameter they vary considerably. Some are less than a yard across, while others are more than 120 miles (the biggest has a diameter of 148 miles). How does the Moon come to be so pockmarked?

There are two hypotheses—volcanic and meteoric. Most scientists vote for the latter.

Kirill Stanyukovich, a Soviet physicist, has written a whole series of works since 1937 in which he expounds the idea that the craters are the result of bombardment of the Moon for millions of years. And he really means bombardment, for even the smallest celestial body, when it is involved in one of those fastest head-on collisions so common in the cosmos behaves itself like a warhead charged with dynamite, or even an atomic warhead at times. Instant combustion takes place on impact, turning it into a dense cloud of incandescent gas, into plasma, and there is a very definite explosion.

According to Professor Stanyukovich, a "missile" of a sizable character (say, 6 miles in diameter) must, on collision with the Moon, penetrate to a depth equal to 4 or 5 times its own diameter (24–30 miles).

The surprising thing is that however big the meteorites may have been which have fallen on the Moon (some have been more than 60 miles in diameter), and however fast they may have been

traveling (in some cases the combined speed was as much as 38 miles per second), the craters they have left behind are for some odd reason all about the same depth, 1.2–2 miles, although they vary tremendously in diameter.

Take that 148-mile diameter crater. In area it outdoes Hiroshima hundreds of times over. What a powerful explosion it must have been to send millions of tons of lunar rock fountaining over tens of miles! On the face of it, one would expect to find a very deep crater here, but nothing of the sort: there is three miles at the most between top and bottom levels, and one third of that is accounted for by the wall of rock thrown up around the crater like a toothed crown.

For such a big hole, it is too shallow. Furthermore, the bottom of the crater is convex, following the curve of the lunar surface. If you were to stand in the middle of the crater you would not even be able to see the soaring edge—it would be beyond the horizon. A hollow that is more like a hill is a rather strange affair, perhaps.

Not really, if one assumes that when the meteorite strikes the outer covering of the Moon, this plays the role of a buffer and the foreign body finds itself up against an impenetrable spherical barrier. Only slightly denting the 20-mile layer of armour plating, the explosion flings bits of its "coating" far and wide.

Bearing in mind that the Moon's defence coating is, according to our calculations, 2.5 miles thick, one sees that this is approximately the maximum depth of the craters.

A SPACESHIP COME TO GRIEF?

Now let us consider the chemical peculiarities of the lunar rock. Upon analysis, American scientists have found chromium, titanium and circonium in

it. These are all metals with refractory, mechanically strong and anti-corrosive properties. A combination of them all would have enviable resistance to heat and the ability to stand up to means of aggression, and could be used on Earth for linings for electrical furnaces.

If a material had to be devised to protect a giant artificial satellite from the unfavourable effects of temperature, from cosmic radiation and meteorite bombardment, the experts would probably have hit upon precisely these metals. In that case is it not clear why lunar rock is such an extraordinarily poor heat conductor—a factor which so amazed the astronauts? Wasn't that what the designers of this super-sputnik of the Earth were after?

From the engineers' point of view, this spaceship of ages long past which we call the Moon is superbly constructed. There may be a good reason for its extreme longevity. It is even possible that it predates our own planet. At any rate, some pieces of lunar rock have proved older than the oldest on Earth, although it is true, this applies to the age of the materials and not of the structure for which they were used. And from the number of craters on its surface, the Moon itself is no chicken.

It is, of course, difficult to say when it began to shine in the sky above the Earth, but on the basis of some preliminary estimates one might hazard a guess that it was around two thousand million years ago.

We do not, of course, imagine that the Moon is still inhabited, and probably many of its automatic devices have stopped working, too. The stabilisers have ceased functioning, and the poles have shifted. Even though the Moon keeps the same side turned towards us, for some time it has been unsteady on its own axis, on occasion showing us parts of its reverse side which were once invisible to observers on the Earth—for example, the Selen-

ites themselves if they made expeditions here.

Time has taken its toll. Both body and rigging have disintegrated to some extent; some seams on the inner shell evidently diverged. We assume that the long (up to 940 miles) chains of small craters formerly ascribed to volcanic activity were brought about by eruptions of gas through cracks appearing in the armour plating as a result of accidents.

No doubt one of the most splendid features of the lunarscape—a straight "wall" nearly 500 yards high and over 60 miles long—formed as a result of one of the armour plates bending under the impact of celestial torpedoes and raising one of its straight, even edges.

The Moon's population presumably took the necessary steps to remedy the effects of meteorite bombardment, for example, patching up rents in the outer shield covering the inner shell. For such purposes a substance from the lunar core was probably used, a kind a cement being made from it. After processing this would be piped to the surface sites where it was required.

Not long ago astronomers discovered variations in the gravitational fields near the large "seas." We believe the reason to be this: the Moon's dry seas are in fact areas from which the protective coating was torn from the armour cladding. To make good the damage to these vast tracts, the installation producing the repair substance would have had to be brought immediately beneath the site so that it could flood the area with its "cement." The resulting flat stretches are what look like seas to the terrestrial observer.

The stocks of materials and machinery for doing this are no doubt still where they were, and are sufficiently massive to give rise to these gravitational anomalies.

What is the Moon today? Is it a colossal necropolis, a "city of the dead," where some form of life

became extinct? Is it a kind of cosmic Flying Dutchman? A craft abandoned by its crew and controlled automatically? We do not know and we shall not try to guess.

WAITING FOR THE EVIDENCE

We have put forward in this article only a few of the reasons—unfortunately the evidence is so far only circumstantial—for our hypothesis, which at first glance may appear to be crazy.

A similar "crazy" idea was put forward in 1959 by Professor Iosif Shklovsky, an eminent scientist, in relation to the "moons" circling around Mars. After carefully weighing up the evidence he concludes that they are both hollow and are therefore artificial satellites.

We feel that the questions we have raised in connection with our Moon provide sufficient food for serious thought on the matter; the result may be the illumination of many lunar riddles.

Now, of course, we have to wait for direct evidence to support our idea. Or to refute it.

Probably there will not be long to wait.

THE MAN WITH A NEW IDEA IS A CRANK—UNTIL THE IDEA SUCCEEDS.

—Henry David Thoreau

CHAPTER 5

OUR MOON MYSTERIES RE-EXAMINED

In light of this startling Soviet spaceship theory let us again look at the mysteries of this Moon and see how they are resolved.

MYSTERY #1: THE MOON IS A FREAK OF NATURE.

We have seen that scientists are puzzled as to the Moon's size and orbit. There is simply no natural way for what has taken place concerning the Moon to have happened.

Not, perhaps, as a natural world; but as an artificially created and steered satellite, yes. Vasin and Shcherbakov do not claim that their theory is definitely correct, but in the case of Mystery #1, their spaceship theory becomes the most logical!

MYSTERY #2: HOW DID THE MOON GET HER HUGE BULGE AND HOW CAN IT KEEP ITS LOP-SIDED SHAPE?

The Moon's huge bulge, as we noted, is unexplainable in terms of the Earth's tidal pull. Scientists also wonder

how our Moon could support such a huge bulge without breaking apart. This bulge has to be supported by some unusual internal characteristic of the Moon, such as great internal strength. All scientists agree here, but this would also mean that there has to be great variation in the density of the Moon.

What peculiar internal strength lies within the make-up of the Moon to support this strange shape and huge bulge? The two Soviet scientists believe they have the answer.

An artificial satellite would most likely be hollow in order to contain the life support and power equipment of its passengers. As Vasin and Shcherbakov claim, the hull of such a spacecraft would be super-tough in order to withstand the extremities of outer space. They describe such a hull in the July, 1970, *Sputnik* article:

> Probably the shell is a double-layered affair—the basis a dense armouring of about 20 miles in thickness, and outside it some kind of loosely packed covering (a thinner layer—averaging about three miles). In certain areas—where the lunar "seas" and "craters" are, the upper layer is quite thin, in some cases non-existent.
>
> Since the Moon's diameter is 2,162 miles, then looked at from our point of view it is a thin-walled sphere. . . . But the greatest proportion of the lunar mass is concentrated in the central part of the sphere, in its core, which has a diameter of 2,062 miles.
>
> Thus the distance between the kernel and the shell of this nut is in the region of 30 miles. This space was doubtless filled with gases required for breathing, and for technological and other purposes.

The puzzle becomes a bit less mystifying in light of the Soviet theory. Vasin and Shcherbakov also point out that the lower density of Moon material can be ex-

plained by the hollow structure of that orb as compared to Earth.

What peculiar internal strength lies within the make-up of the Moon to support this strange shape and huge bulge? This mystifying puzzle would no longer perplex science in light of the Soviet theory of a reinforced inner shell of this lunar spaceship.

MYSTERY #3: THE MYSTERY OF THE MOON'S MANY SHALLOW CRATERS

Undoubtedly, the vast difference between the Moon's pock-marked, cratered face and the Earth's relatively craterless appearance is due to the corrosive forces of Earth's atmosphere which burn up most of the celestial missiles before they hit. Nevertheless, if these two planets led different lives, if the Moon traveled through the cosmos among many different systems, probably even asteroid belts similar to the one lying between Mars and Jupiter, it would have been subjected to much more pounding than our Earth.

However, this is speculation. We know that close-up photographs of Mercury and Mars taken in the last few years show a startling likeness to our cratered Moon. Furthermore, we are not even sure that craters on our lunar world are caused by celestial bombardment. Many theories have been postulated to account for them, including a wild one that attributes the gigantic holes to an atomic war!

The other widely held theory accounting for the various craters on the Moon is the volcanic theory. The great German philosopher Immanuel Kant advanced the lunar volcano theory as early as 1785, although it did not take root to any extent among lunar scientists until much later. Outstanding lunar experts following Kant's lead feel that although many craters were caused by impacts, others must be volcanic. Robert Strom, of the University of Arizona, observes: "As I see it, about 10

percent of the craters are clearly impact-created, about 10 are volcanic and the rest are uncertain. We will probably have to fight it out crater by crater!"[1]

Whether Moon craters are caused by meteorite impact or volcanic action, most scientists are stumped by their uniform shallowness. The Soviet theory opts for craters caused by impact, and explains the uniform few-miles-depth conundrum as follows:

> . . . when the meteorite strikes the outer covering of the Moon, this plays the role of a buffer and the foreign body finds itself up against an impenetrable spherical barrier. Only slightly denting the 20-mile layer of armour plating, the explosion flings bits of its "coating" far and wide.
>
> Bearing in mind that the Moon's defence coating is according to our calculations, 2.5 miles thick, one sees that this is approximately the maximum depth of the craters.

MYSTERY #4: THE MYSTIFYING MARIA OF THE MOON

We've seen that the prevailing theory concerning maria is that they are immense oceans of cooled lava. The mystery we're faced with is from where did this lava come? The Moon's extremely hot interior is a possibility, but many scientists hold that the Moon was formed cold; that it is too small to generate the kind of heat needed for oceans of molten lava. Others believe that the Moon was bombarded with huge meteorites, asteroids and comets which exploded upon impact, throwing vast quantities of liquid lava over the face of that world. The later explanation does seem more likely, but then how do we explain the fact that the lava seemed to well up from the interior of the satellite?

Vasin and Shcherbakov suggest that the molten lava

did well up from the interior of the Moon, but not from any natural volcanic action. They theorize that the unknown alien race that utilized the Moon prepared this lavalike material from the rocks and dirt of interior excavations. As meteorites struck the Moon's surface, creating "dents" in the outer hull, the aliens pumped this material into the rends, thereby leaving huge lakes or seas of lava. This liquid "cement-type" material hardened, "patching" the damage, and becoming the vast, circular, dark areas that are the Moon's maria.

The weakened outer layers which threatened inner damage were filled in to assure continued strength for the Moon. This accounts for the fact that the material out of which the maria are made seems to be rich in ore. This also accounts for the fact that the maria seem to have perfectly filled in—over areas of hundreds of miles —what are the round ghosts of larger craters.

MYSTERY #5: THE MYSTERIOUS MASCONS— THE HUGE MASS CONCENTRATIONS WHICH DISTORT THE ORBITS OF SPACESHIPS

Over a dozen mass concentrations lie under circular marias and a few other areas of the Moon, betraying their presence to man by distorting the orbits of spacecraft that flew over or near them. Because of their density they were mapped as regions of greater gravity. Why they should exist and what caused them is the mystery —unless you accept the Soviet theory.

As Vasin and Shcherbakov theorize, the maria are filled-in areas in which the outer protecting layers of rock were torn or blasted away, exposing the inner hull. They speculate that in order to repair the wear and tear, these superintelligent aliens filled in the exposed areas with a kind of strong lava which formed a protective covering. And they are convinced that the equipment, which would probably have to be massive to carry out

this monumental task, and the vast stocks of necessary elements that made-up the lava, are no doubt still stored and resting beneath these regions. The concentrations of their weight under these lunar "seas" would be enough to account for the extra gravitational pull of the mascons.

It seems that these speculations are just that—mere speculations. It also seems that there may be another explanation for such gravitational anomalies. We can hardly divine the technological methods and equipment used by these superior aliens in this vast project, but we must agree with Vasin and Shcherbakov that indeed the pull probably has to do with something the alien makers of the Moon used to refashion their world. What that is we can only guess.

MYSTERY #6: THE DIFFERING FAR SIDE OF THE MOON

While it is true that a few scientists thought that the far side of the Moon would be somehow different, most felt dark-side photographs would hold no surprises for us. Russian and American spaceships, however, revealed that the hidden side was much more pock-marked and mountainous, but contained very few maria.

The reasons behind this strange dichotomy are still unknown. There is one possible reason, but it depends on the acceptance of the Soviet theory.

Speculate, if you will, on that artificial satellite sailing through space toward our planet Earth. Undoubtedly it encountered many hazards, such as asteroid belts, meteor showers, and the like. In this unknown journey through the universe one side could have suddenly been exposed and bombarded by an onslaught of celestial missiles.

The true answer may, of course, be an entirely different one. Even the above solution leaves unanswered the problem of the absence of maria on the Moon's far side.

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Warning: The Surgeon General Has Determined That Cigarette Smoking Is Dangerous to Your Health.

MYSTERY #7: IS THE MOON'S PECULIAR LIGHTNESS AND SEEMING LOW DENSITY DUE TO THE FACT THAT IT MAY BE HOLLOW?

The Moon seems to be a comparatively light world in contrast with the planet Earth. The fact that the Moon is only about 60 percent as dense as our planet has led scientists to two theories: that the Moon is without an iron core, and/or, that it is partially hollow.

Data and computations—among them, Dr. Gordon McDonald's motion studies—point to the conclusion that our Moon is internally hollow to a great extent. Since most scientists claim that there is no natural explanation for such a peculiar phenomenon (because satellite worlds are not naturally hollow), the inevitable conclusion indicates that the Moon is artificially hollow. Our Soviet theorists, needless to say, agree.

MYSTERY #8: IS THE MOON A SISTER, DAUGHTER OR SPOUSE OF THE EARTH?

All the major theories we have examined have serious weaknesses. As Vasin and Shcherbakov point out: ". . . scientists studying the origin of the Universe today have no acceptable theory to explain how the Earth-Moon system came into being."

Even before man landed on the Moon the evidence indicated all major theories were in hot water. Darwin's fission theory that the Moon split off from Earth was dead before the Moon program got off the launching pad. As illustrated, the vast majority of earth scientists agreed that our Moon could hardly be the daughter of our planet Earth.

Nor was it a sister planet formed out of the same gaseous dust cloud in a simultaneous cosmic birth with the Earth. As Dr. Urey asked: "Is it possible that two bod-

ies like the Earth and the Moon could have accumulated near each other in space from debris of some kind, and have markedly different densities? So far as we know there is no reason why the more dense material should accumulate into a large object, the Earth, and the less dense material should prefer to accumulate in the small object."[2]

The capture theory, which holds the Moon to be a stranger to the solar system which came into the Earth's gravitational field and by a complex interplay of the forces of gravity was caught and trapped into an eccentric elliptical orbit around us, has immense difficulties. One has simply to imagine the mathematical probabilities involved.

It is difficult to understand—in fact, some scientists admit it is incomprehensible—how a moon as large as ours could have approached the Earth at just the right angle and just the right speed to be gravitationally caught and hooked permanently around us. Most important, such an unlikely gravitational catch would hardly leave the Moon with an almost perfectly circular, synchronized orbit, for even if all this could have happened, the Moon would have a pronounced elliptical one.

Of course, all these problems vanish if one accepts the Soviet spaceship theory: the Moon was steered into orbit around us.

THE MOON TAKES UP THE WONDEROUS TALE . . .

—Joseph Addison

CHAPTER 6

THE INFORMATION UNEARTHED BY APOLLO

The two bold Soviet scientists who postulated the spaceship theory ended their thesis with this statement:

> We feel that the questions we have raised in connection with our Moon provide sufficient food for serious thought on the matter; the result may be the illumination of many lunar riddles.
>
> Now of course, we have to wait for direct evidence to support our idea. Or to refute it.
>
> Probably there will not be long to wait.

In this chapter we will see some of that evidence. Our six trips to the Moon have produced a world of informational material: 837 pounds of lunar rocks and soil and over 30,000 photographs and reels of magnetic tape. Over 800 geologists, chemists, astrophysicists and astronomers have studied and are continuing to study this mountain of data in an attempt to learn the truth about this perplexing planet orbiting our own.

The amazing outcome, as we view it, is that nearly all the information from NASA's findings *support the Soviet Shcherbakov-Vasin theory.* Here is how each piece of evidence fits into this alien puzzle:

THE AGE OF THE MOON

One of the first surprises scientists got when they received samples of lunar rocks and soil was their extreme age. The oldest rocks found on planet Earth have been discovered in Greenland. They are dated 3.7 billion years old.

The first rock that astronaut Neil Armstrong picked up after he landed at the Sea of Tranquility turned out to be more than 3.6 billion years old!

But this was only the beginning of the antiquity story. One rock from man's first trip to Luna was a baffling 4.3 billion years old. Another puzzler (Rock 13) checked in at an unbelievable 4.5 billion years. And an Apollo 11 soil sample turned out to be 4.6 billion years old—the very age, scientists believe, of the Earth and solar system itself.

NASA scientists hardly expected to discover rocks older than our own *planet,* let alone close to the age of our solar system. It should be noted that NASA officially recognizes the oldest rock to be no more than 4.5 billion years. There are, however, other reports.

According to *Sky and Telescope,* a well-known astronomical periodical, the Lunar Conference of 1973 revealed a moon rock had been discovered that was dated 5.3 billion years old.[1] Another report based on the potassium-argon system of dating, now accepted by science as the most accurate dating system, claimed "some of the rocks gave an unacceptable age of seven billion years."[2]

And if we are to believe yet another report, "Two Apollo XII rocks have been dated at 20 billion years."[3] Unbelievable? Seemingly, for that is four times the age of our planet and our own solar system! So far as we know, this is as old as the oldest scientific estimate ever placed on any portion of the Universe.

If the age of any of these rock samples is accurate,

this would mean then that the Moon definitely came from outside our own solar system. These findings, needless to say, give a considerable boost to the capture theory, a theory, as we have seen, that most scientists would not accept before the Apollo expeditions because of the insurmountable problems of celestial mechanics and the obvious fact that even if our Moon was captured by some miracle of improbabilities then it should have a pronounced elliptical orbit and not its actual nearly circular one.

Of course, the Soviet "spaceship" theory of an artificially constructed alien world steered into orbit around the Earth dissolves these difficulties.

The scientist who was most pleased by the antiquity of moon rocks was Dr. Urey, who said it "rehabilitated and revived him" and his capture theory. Originally, he had suggested that moon rocks on the surface might date back to the beginning of the solar system and even earlier. It looked as if that might indeed be the case, and this helped his theory that the Moon was actually formed elsewhere.

In an article in *Chemistry,* a technical magazine, Dr. Urey claims the fact that "moon rock has been shown to contain xenon isotopes from fission of plutonium-244 which are not found on earth indicate[s] that the moon is much older."[4]

While this would leave the capture theory as the most likely and acceptable, Urey adds, "But despite this evidence, most scientists feel the capture theory is unlikely." Perhaps they should consider the Soviet theory.

THE CONFLICTING AGES OF MOON ROCKS AND LUNAR SOIL

Scientists were amazed to find rocks that lay side by side differing so much in age, but what was even more confusing was the contradictory age of the soil and dust samples in which they were found.

Even the rocks were not all that consistent. Rock 13 (full number 12013), which was brought back by Apollo 12 astronauts, checked in at that 4.5-billion-year figure. Dr. Paul Gast, chief of the Lunar and Earth Science Divisions of NASA, said this rock was "a mess, a marble cake," due to its assortment of differing components with differing ages. It was also chemically different from any rock found on Luna up to that time. It had at least ten times as much uranium, potassium and thorium, and a significantly higher radioactivity level.

The contradictory age of the soil is even more interesting. Most of the rocks from our first Moon landing clocked in at 3.6 billion years of age, but the soil in which they rested proved to be 4.6 billion years old.

With Apollo 12 the same contradictory clash was found. The soil sample (4.4 billion) was a billion years *older* than the rocks that lay strewn about it, an impossibility to our bewildered scientists. They expected the soil to be the powdered remains of the rocks lying amidst it, a rubble pile consisting of dust, dirt, rocks and stones that have been banged and crushed over eons of time by the bombardment of meteorites.

Even more bewildering discoveries were to follow, as lunar experts found from chemical analysis of the soil that this lunar dirt did not come from the rocks around it but from somewhere else! Where? They simply do not know.

The moon rocks and lunar soil have introduced so many contradictions that a perplexed team of California Institute of Technology (Caltech) scientists once expressed their feelings of frustration by signing a research report "The Lunatic Asylum."

But if the Moon did wander through the universe as a spaceship, as the Soviet scientists Vasin and Shcherbakov theorize, then clearly it would have passed through differing cosmic "time zones." In so doing it would have picked up rocks and rock particles in the form of meteorites and micrometeorites, and the dust and dirt would

be of differing ages. Is there a scientist with a theory that makes more sense?

WHY IS THE MOON SO DIFFERENT FROM THE EARTH AND SO DIFFERENT AT VARYING DEPTHS?

Before man went to the Moon most scientists believed that it was formed out of the same cosmic cloud as our Earth. In general we have found from a dozen different American and Soviet expeditions to Luna that our satellite is quite different in makeup. Dr. S. Ross Taylor, of the Australian National University, has spent considerable time studying moon rocks. He admits that they "are different enough from earth rocks to keep us busy for years." But now that the Apollo expeditions are over and scientists have spent years studying the Moon's composition, what have they learned?

First of all, samples taken from the first flight to the Moon (from the Sea of Tranquility) were found to be extremely rich in titanium and other highly refractory elements—those with high melting points. (These—as Soviet scientists Vasin and Shcherbakov point out—make for an extremely tough lunar hide or protective covering for the inner shell of spaceship Moon.) At the same time samples have been relatively poor in the more volatile elements with low melting points, such as sodium and potassium.

Similarly, rocks from the Ocean of Storms have a unique chemical composition—they contain more than 20 times the amount of uranium, thorium and potassium found in other lunar samples. This selection came from the northern part of the Ocean of Storms, particularly the area of Aristarchus, where some scientists have reported seeing volcanolike transient events.

Some elements found on the Moon have never before been found on Earth in their natural forms. At the Third Scientific Conference in Houston, the Argone Na-

tional Laboratory reported that they had found uranium 236 and neptunium 237 in lunar samples brought back by Apollo 12 and 14—elements never previously found in nature.

Another element never found before by Earth scientists was a strange component called KREEP. It contains a high content of potassium, rare earth elements and phosphorus. This element was discovered in Apollo 12 samples and dated about 4.5 billion years old. The mysterious component is believed to be a part of the Moon's ancient crust.

A large amount of metallic particles was also found in various Apollo samples. The Moon, strangely, contains large amounts of those rare earth elements which have a very high melting point and therefore great resistance to heat. Some of these elements, especially titanium, are now being used on Earth in the manufacture of supersonic jets and spacecraft.

In fact, one scientific journal (*Science News,* August 16, 1969, p. 129) says that the outer surface of the Moon contains titanium, zirconium and yttrium in "amounts higher than present estimates either in earthly rock or estimates of elemental abundance in the universe."

Lunar scientists have also found a new unnamed mineral on the Moon. *Science News* (January 10, 1970, p. 34) tells us this "unnamed mineral is a titanium-iron-zirconium silicate with concentrations of calcium and yttrium and lesser amounts of eight other elements including aluminum and sodium."

Of course, this is not the complete picture of the composition of the lunar world. Our scientists are only studying 837 pounds of lunar material. "Certainly none of our astronauts dug a hole 25 miles deep to determine the chemistry down there," points out science writer Earl Ubell, "but nature provided the shovel in the form of incoming meteorites that blasted very deep holes, and brought up the underlying rocks. Each of the Apollo landings, particularly Apollo 15, was designed to set

down in areas where the dug-up rocks would have landed."[5]

So though we know little, scientists have learned enough about our neighbor to come to this conclusion: "The moon's composition is not at all what it should be had the moon been formed in its present orbit around the earth."[6] The elements that make up its composition are simply too different.

In general, scientists are puzzled not only by the differing elemental makeup, but also over why the Moon is so strangely chemically zoned; its surface enriched in the refractory elements and its interior seemingly devoid of iron, yet the iron content seemingly plentiful in the maria, and in one layer beneath the surface.

The amount of refractory elements in the surface rocks is so pronounced that several geochemists proposed these materials were brought to the Moon's surface in great quantity in some way. In such a theory, the highly volatile materials would be concentrated toward the interior. In fact, the Moon is so strange in this respect that Dr. D.L. Anderson, professor of geophysics and director of the seismological laboratory at Caltech, proposes that "the moon was made inside out."[7]

We suggest: If the Soviet theory of a hollowed-out world were correct, with the internal Moon materials brought to the surface during the process, the Moon, to our scientists, would seem to be made *inside out.* Also, the fact that the Moon is deficient in iron except in a layer *under* its surface, and rich in iron and titanium and similar elements in the *maria,* fits the Soviet theory that aliens used these materials in the formation of their "spaceship's" *inner hull,* and the *outer maria patchwork.*

THE MYSTIFYING BANDS AND BLOCKS OF IRON INSIDE THE MOON

As we have seen, the lunar maria are rich in iron. Strangely, a thick layer inside the Moon just under the

crustal surface is also rich in that ore. In a technical study (*Fourth Lunar Conference,* Vol. 3, pp. 2947–62) it is reported that ". . . the Moon is not composed entirely of paramagnetic material, but that ferromagnetic material such as free iron exists in sufficient amounts to dominate the bulk lunar susceptibility."

From seismic study come similar reports. Two similar zones or belts of "activity" exist deep inside the Moon. The belts are at least 1000 kilometers long and 1000 kilometers deep and do not appear to intersect according to some authorities. Why do the zones lie in belts? Lunar seismologist Dr. Gary Latham admits, "I'm mystified. We can't explain it yet."

As *Science News* journal reports: "Another possibility is that they are composed of material such as embedded blocks of iron that would cause them to have different elastic properties from the rest of the Moon."

Embedded blocks of iron 1000 kilometers long found in nature? Could these be inner artificial constructions of our spaceship Moon?

THE STRANGE HOURS-LONG VIBRATIONS DETECTED ON THE MOON

One of the most important lunar questions concerned the Moon's interior. Most scientists felt that it was homogenous, the same throughout, and thus resembled a large chronditic asteroid or meteor.

In order to learn more about the internal structure sensitive seismometers were set up by Apollo 12 astronauts in November 1969 on the Moon's Sea of Storms. Dr. Gary Latham, of the Columbia University Lamont-Doherty Geological Observatory, the primary science team handling seismometer experiments, claims that these instruments were up to 100 times more sensitive than any used on Earth; able to record tremors about one million times smaller than vibrations which human beings make.

When the Lunar Module ascent stage of Apollo 12 was sent crashing into the Moon this seismological equipment recorded the shock waves. The results staggered NASA scientists. The artificially created moonquake lasted 55 minutes!

Furthermore, the *kind* of signals recorded by the seismometers shocked scientists. Seismologists were puzzled that the signals started with small waves, gained in size to a peak, and lasted for unbelievably long periods of time. "The records are utterly different from any obtainable observations on the earth," relates one scientist in the highly regarded publication *Science* (November 12, 1971).[8]

The seismic records of Apollo 12 proved not to be unique. When the spent third stage of the ill-fated Saturn rocket booster of Apollo 13 was propelled out of Earth orbit into a Moon trajectory, and by radio command crashed into the Moon, it hit with an impact equal to 11 tons of TNT, about 87 miles from the site where the Apollo 12 astronauts set up seismometers.

The entire Moon vibrated for more than 3 hours, 20 minutes; the vibrations traveling to a depth of twenty-two to twenty-five miles. Scientists were dumbfounded, but if the Soviet theory of an inner metallic spaceship hull is correct, then *these vibrations are naturally what should be expected.*

The Apollo 14's S-IVB was also boosted into a Moon course and, by remote control, crashed into the lunar surface. A NASA science publication said: "The moon reacted like a gong. For about three hours it vibrated and these vibrations traveled to a depth of from twenty-two to twenty-five miles."[9] The instruments, by the way, picked up the vibrations even though they were 108 miles away from the Apollo 14 impact site.

Some scientists explained these prolonged vibrations by the theory that the maria are filled with a material that responds differently to shock waves than lava on Earth. This, of course, would also be expected if, as our Soviet theorists speculate, the maria are giant, metal-

rich coverings over the metallic inner hull of spaceship Moon.

Scientists analyzing the data automatically relayed to Earth through a robot transmitter at the Apollo 12 site, claimed it confirmed earlier conclusions that the composition of the Moon's outer layers down to a depth of 22 miles is *uniform throughout.* Again, exactly what our Soviet scientists said.

This finding was later strengthened during the Apollo 14 expedition by a similar experiment performed shortly before the astronauts rocketed themselves out of Moon orbit and onto a path back to Earth.

After they had rejoined the main spacecraft, the astronauts jettisoned the upper section (ascent stage) of their landing craft which was no longer needed. By radio command from Mission Control, the empty 4,850-pound ascent stage was steered into the Moon. It struck with a force equal to the explosion of about 1600 pounds of TNT. This time tremors reverberated through the Moon for 90 minutes. Says the NASA publication *Apollo 14: Science at Fra Mauro.* "This minor Moonquake marked a scientific milestone. It was the first time any event, manmade or natural, was recorded by a network of two seismic stations on the Moon."[10] (The seismometer at the Apollo 12 and one that had just been set up by Apollo 14 astronauts in the Fra Mauro region recorded the event.)

The shock waves followed the same pattern that the previous impacts did, vibrating up to a crescendo, then gradually dessipating into silence. Dr. Latham, principal investigator of the seismic experiment, admitted that the Moon's behavior continued to baffle scientists who have found no counterpart on Earth. Indeed, one impact lasted four hours.[11]

One scientific observer suggested that the seismic evidence points strongly to the fact that the Moon has no molten lava core and is cold throughout. On Earth, seismic waves are damped out and absorbed by differences in density between one layer of the Earth's struc-

ture and another, and by the Earth's molten core. On the Moon, the damping mechanisms are much weaker, allowing quakes to last much longer. A cold rocky body would behave the way the Moon does.

We might note that a hollow Moon that had the shell of a spaceship would too.

Scientists tell us that the hours-long vibrations indicate that whatever the Moon is it transmits tremors extremely well. A metallic sphere fits that definition, but NASA scientists, of course, felt it was extremely hard rock. (Our Earth has a mantle of rock but does not ring or vibrate anything like the Moon, although Earth apparently has a soft, hot interior.)

Dr. Gary Latham, of Columbia University, insists that the results of these impacts upon the Moon show it to be cold throughout its interior. "This would normally imply the absence of fluid. It would mean no extensive melting in the interior. It also provides further indication that the center of the Moon is now cool, not molten and active the way Earth is."

These observations were possible, in part, because for the first time a manmade impact on the Moon was detected by *three* different seismic stations—one left previously by Apollo 12, another by the Apollo 14 crew, and the one placed by the Apollo 15 astronauts at the Hadley-Apennine landing site. The signals of the Apollo 15 impact traveled over 700 miles to the Apollo 12 seismometer at the Ocean of Storms, and to the seismometers at the Fra Mauro highlands.

On Earth, signals from such an impact probably would not be felt outside of a range of a few miles. Certainly not for hundreds of miles. Seismically speaking, the Earth does not "ring" like a huge gong when something crashes into it. But the Earth's interior is made of rock. Perhaps the Moon's is not . . .

There is also the question of the mystifying speed with which vibrations travel through the Moon's hard, interior layer. As Wernher von Braun tells us: "The velocity (of seismic waves) seems to gradually increase

down to a depth of about 15 miles—then there is a sharp increase. This increase can only be accounted for by a change to a denser material. . . . At a depth of 40 miles, the velocity is estimated to be about six miles a second. . . . No rocks examined thus far would under the actual pressures expected at a lunar depth of 40 miles transmit seismic impulses at speeds as high as six miles a second."[12]

What kind of material would carry sounds at that speed?

Strange that a check of the speed of sound through the probable intermixture of metals—iron, titanium, berylium, molybdenum, and yttrium—that exists in the outer maria averages out to about six miles a second. Even stranger, this intermixture is what our two Soviet scientists claim makes up spaceship Moon's artificial inner hull! Here is impressive proof that the inner layer inside the Moon is indeed metallic and that the spaceship Moon does have an artificial inner hull!

THE THICK OUTER SHELL OF THE MOON

This mystery is closely related to the last one, and helps us understand how scientists were able to determine the internal layers of the Moon actually exist. One event more than any other helped—the hitting of the Moon by a large meteor.

Forty tons of meteorities fall on the Moon on an average day, scientists estimate. Most of them are, of course, very small grains or micrometeorites. They hit with an explosive force that typically reaches down into the lunar surface at a shallow depth of twice their diameter.

A meteor large enough to form a crater of a single kilometer—which is about the minimum size we could detect from Earth—would require a weight of 40,000 tons. One scientist figured we would have to wait about three million years before such an event happened. It is

not surprising that no one on Earth has reported the birth of a lunar crater.

It happened, however, on May 13, 1972, as a "whopper" slammed into Luna with the impact of over 200 tons of TNT. "It was a miracle of the first magnitude . . ."[13] Dr. Gary Latham, NASA's chief seismologist, exclaimed.

The impact enabled lunar scientists to determine the structure of the Moon's interior and the thickness of the Moon's curst. Latham claims that the data shows that the crust of the Moon is about 60 kilometers thick. "This," he says, "is twice as thick as the average crustal, outer shell of any continent on Earth."

More importantly, how do scientists explain the fact that this 60-kilometer crust is supposed to be hardened *lava*? (It would be impossible for the Moon to have produced this amount of lava without melting itself out of existence.)

They don't. But we've seen that the Soviet, alien-created-world theory has the answer to this problem.

THE MYSTERIOUS BULGE ON THE FAR SIDE OF OUR MOON

Scientists surmised that our neighbor had a bulge due to the Earth's gravitational pull. However, that answer was less than satisfying because that bulge, their information indicated, was 17 times greater than could be accounted for by the Earth's tidal pull. Paradoxically, the bulge is on the far side, which to our knowledge never faced the Earth.

How did NASA scientists determine this? On the Apollo 15 mission Al Worden, circling the Moon in the command ship *Endeavour*, bombarded Luna with a probing laser beam. With the data from this experiment scientists verified what they had long suspected—the Moon is lopsided with a huge bulge in it. But that several-mile

bulge is on the far side with an intriguing depression of about the same depth existing on the opposite side facing Earth.

That our Moon was out of whack was verified later by scientists at the Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena and at the University of California. Studying the laser altimetry results, scientists determined that the far side was from six to nine kilometers higher than the average of the near side. A several-mile bulge! Scientists can only theorize how this mystifying condition developed. As one bewildered NASA scientist put it (in *Science News,* January 29, 1972): "It appears that not the Earth but something else has had the attention of the Moon."[14]

Perhaps the Moon did not always have its present orbit, but came near the Earth with its far side facing us. There is one scientist who held this wild theory. His name was Hans Hoerbiger, an Austrian engineer who believed the Moon was captured by the Earth a few thousand years ago. If it came as close to the Earth as he theorized, however, it would have exploded, pulled apart by the tremendous pull of our planet.

And this leads us to yet another mystery of the Moon —the tremendous internal strength the Moon must possess to support that bulge. Scientists suspected this great internal strength existed even before man journeyed to this strange world. As Harold Urey observed in 1962: "In particular, there are very large differences in elevation on the moon—some six miles' difference in altitude between the mountains and the valleys on the eastern limb of the moon. How do we account for the preservation of such great differences as these? The mountains of the earth are floating on the more dense material below. A similar structure for the mountains of the moon appears most improbable, so that they must be supported by rigid underlying material."[15]

What is this peculiar strength? Again, the Soviet spaceship theory is the only answer that makes the bulge understandable. First, the spaceship Moon traveling

throughout the cosmos undoubtedly passed (and perhaps visited) many other worlds and stars that could have placed a gigantic pull on it. Perhaps the Moon zoomed into another celestial orbit that caused it to wrench itself out of shape. But the great internal strength of the Moon's spaceship hull prevented the Moon from breaking apart, leaving it with a seemingly "impossible" bulge—impossible to sustain under normal lunar conditions.

This, of course, is pure speculation, but that the Moon has great interior strength is not. In all, another mystery understandable only in light of the Soviet spaceship theory.

THE DISCOVERY OF WATER ON THIS DRY-AS-DUST WORLD

We have seen how puzzling vibrations or tremors travel throughout the Moon whenever something large crashes into it. Geologists and seismic experts concluded that this clearly indicates that the Moon is an extremely dry world, probably completely without water.

As expected, lunar expeditions verified this. No trace of water on the surface of the Moon was found by Apollo 11, 12 and 14. "There is no evidence in the rocks or geochemistry that water exists," proclaimed NASA Assistant Director of Lunar Science Richard Allenby. In fact, as a science writer in *Time* magazine put it (January 15, 1971): ". . . this prompted one scientist to comment that the moon was a million times as dry as the Gobi Desert."[16]

Then lunar scientists received upsetting news from instruments left on the Moon by Apollo expeditions. Great eruptions of water vapor clouds have been detected which spread over an area of some 100 square miles on the Moon's surface! The eruptions lasted 14 hours!

This report was submitted by two Rice University physicists, Dr. John Freeman, Jr., and Dr. H. Ken Hills,

after studying the data detected by the Apollo Superthermal Ion Detectors (SIDE). Freeman and Hills called this event one of "the most exciting discoveries yet" and claimed that the water came from deep down inside the Moon, apparently released during a moonquake.

Red-faced NASA scientists denied this conclusion, however, claiming that the clouds of water came from the two water tanks of an Apollo descent stage left on the Moon. Each tank would contain 60 to 100 pounds of water. These two tiny tanks created the 100 square miles of water vapor.

Incredible, but that is what NASA would have the public believe. The SIDE research team did not buy that explanation, however. They insisted that the evidence was clear that the water vapor came from inside the Moon because Apollo 12 and 14 are located some 180 kilometers apart, yet the vapor was detected with the *same flux at both sites.* This is important, SIDE points out, because the two instruments that detected the vapor *face outward, in the opposite directions.*[17]

NASA then tried to pass this 100-square-mile cloud of water vapor off as the urine of astronauts which was dumped on August 14 into the lunar skies from the command ship. They claimed that the urine could have orbited the Moon for several weeks, gradually decreasing altitude and descending to the surface, where it was eventually detected by our ion equipment on the Moon. Dr. H.K. Hills, of SIDE, rejects the urine theory outright. Both he and Freeman point out that the urine would have dissipated itself in orbit and certainly would not have produced near as high a reading as that recorded on the Moon.

The water vapor affair may not seem to be a big problem, but its discovery absolutely astounded most lunar experts. As *Science News* (October 23, 1971) points out: "The presence or absence of water on the moon is central to theories of lunar origin and development."[18]

The impact of the find is considerable. As lunar sci-

entist Farouk El Baz points out: "If water vapor is coming from the moon's interior this is serious. It means that there is a drastic distinction between the different phases in the lunar interior—that the interior is quite different from what we have seen on the surface."[19]

As we have noted, the Apollo 11, 12, 14 and 15 expeditions indicated that there was no water on the surface of Luna because of the lack of hydrous materials there.

Then Apollo 16 returned and the mystery intensified! Apollo 16 astronauts had brought back rocks that appeared to be rusty, and it turned out that the rocks contained rusted iron! And NASA scientist Dr. Gast says "the rusting is definitely of lunar origin."[20]

How could the iron in these rocks be rusted without the presence of water on the Moon, scientists wondered, for to have rust one must have oxygen and free hydrogen, as well as iron and water. All these things scientists (except a few like Vasin and Shcherbakov) insist do not exist on the Moon!

However, the results were verified by the University of Cambridge. And B.J. Skinner, of Yale University, insisted: "The evidence seems good that we have the first hydrous mineral found on the moon."[21]

Our two Soviet theorists claim that the Moon has hollow areas filled with gases for some kind of atmosphere to sustain life. Could these gases—escaping through the cracks and crevasses in the Moon's surface—be the vapor clouds seen on the Moon?

If so, NASA may have been half correct. The vapor came from "water tanks," but not tanks of any earthly origin . . .

THE "IMPOSSIBLE" LUNAR TRENCHES

Another mysterious aspect of the Moon is the strange meandering rilles which have been described by one scientist as "steep-sided lunar troughs." Some scientists be-

lieve these channels were carved by water which once existed on this now dry world. Most, however, consider them to be collapsed lava tubes which conceivably could have been channels through which molten material was carried.

The origin of these channels remains a mystery. That is why one Apollo expedition was sent to Hadley Rille to investigate one of the most intriguing of these large sinuous river-bed-type trenches firsthand. This particular rille is a huge Grand Canyon one mile across and 1500 feet deep, winding its way through the eastern area of the Sea of Rains—the right eye of the "man in the Moon."

Scientists were convinced a huge meteor or asteroid the size of Rhode Island hit here and blasted out the Imbrium basin, probably billions of years ago. It is believed to be one of the largest and one of the last of the giant collisions that shook the Moon during its youth. Striking with the energy of countless H-bombs, this massive impact threw rocks and materials hundreds of miles. Its force pushed up the Apennines, the Juras, the Carpathians and the other mountains that ring the Imbrium basin.

Some scientists also believed that this impact opened huge cracks and rilles that later released molten rock from below. Hadley Rille is one of the most spectacular of such features, running over 70 miles in length.

The astronauts of Apollo 15 were awed when they approached this area. As David Scott, head of the expedition, exclaimed: "No place on earth holds such a concentration of features." One of his first reactions is reminiscent of an admiring tourist: "Oh boy, what a view!"

The spacecraft of Apollo 15 landed at the eastern edge of the huge Sea of Rains in a region named Palus Putredinis, the Marsh of Decay. NASA geological expert Farouk El Baz said: "The Latin might be better translated 'Stinking Swamp.' " El Baz, an Egyptian-born scientist, prepared the Apollo 15 astronauts geologically for the trip; pouring over countless moon photographs

with them; familiarizing them in every way with the area. And as a teacher "the King" (the affectionate name given El Baz by his astronaut students) did an admirably effective job. In fact so effective was he that at one point on the expedition Al Worden remarked: "After the King's training, it's almost like I'd been here before."[22]

Just before touchdown Scott and Irwin got a good view of the Hadley Mountains and the rille. The towering Hadley Mountains, taller than Mt. Everest, the tallest on our planet Earth, surprised them. Scott's description: "All the features around here are very smooth. . . . The tops of the mountains are rounded off. There are no sharp jagged peaks. . . . It's a gently rolling terrain completely around."

Then Young dropped this blockbuster: "To the east of Hadley Delta . . . I can see smooth surface; however, I can see lineaments . . . there are definite linear features."[23]

The news that Mount Hadley had apparent layers startled NASA scientists. Nobody anticipated this—and we might add nobody has adequately explained it. How could a mountain be laid layer upon layer when scientists believed it was pushed up in one fell swoop by the huge projectile that blasted out the Imbrium basin billions of years ago?

In fact, from this and other evidence of earlier Apollo visits, the Moon seemed to be chiefly a big rubble pile.

Investigation of Hadley Rille proved that it too was layered, although scientists were not as shocked because Lunar Orbiter photographs did show what appeared to be a few strata in the wall of the rille. The question of their origin, however, still remained. Since most lunar experts were convinced that the Moon had never held bodies of water, the lines could not be deposits of ocean sediments which are the cause of strata on Earth. While some scientists believe that strata may represent fractures or blankets of ejected materials accumulated from before the time of the Imbrium impact event, a few think they may be very ancient lava flows. (The majori-

ty opinion now is that *natural* lava flows could not have cut through the number of layers—up to 11—which Irwin and Scott saw in the rille. Besides, the flow of molten lava would have covered up the signs of layers, much like new plaster covers up an old wall.) In any event, this problem promises to keep scientists busy for years to come. As one highly placed NASA official remarked, "They're the most mystifying thing. For example, no river or lava flow ever criss-crosses itself the way some rilles do. If you want to know the bitter truth, the rilles can't exist."

The journal *The Moon* approaches the problem from another angle, pointing out the "pressing need to explain . . . [how] the lunar mare material not only has covered features with minor relief, but also apparently had an extraordinary capacity to destroy pre-existing major relief. . . . Many cases are known where crater walls have been destroyed apparently by contact with luna lavas. . . . Such walls have not been merely covered; rather they appear to have been breached, undermined, or collapsed. . . . It is known from Apollo data that lunar lavas were of high temperature and were unusually fluid . . . but this alone does not account for their erosive ability."[24]

Scientists are at a loss to offer orthodox explanations. Could these rilles possibly be troughs or trenches which were used as channels to carry molten materials? This conjecture would fit right into the Soviet theory. Perhaps it's time for scientists to leave orthodoxy behind.

THE MOON POSSESSES THE MATERIALS OF A SPACESHIP

Probably no rocks and dust in the history of the world have ever been scrutinized and studied as carefully and thoroughly as the 837 pounds of lunar material our astronauts brought back from the Moon. One of the most puzzling things about the content of lunar matter was its

surprisingly high content of an element like titanium, that tough metallic element used in today's supersonic jets and spacecraft.

Henry Cooper in his book *Moon Rocks* reports that even before the Apollo astronauts returned with their precious cargo from the Moon our scientists knew from the results of Surveyor spacecraft that the Moon possessed such elements. It merely confirmed "a mystifying high content of titanium which had so surprised geologists that when it had been reported to them by Dr. Anthony Turkevich, the man in charge of the Surveyor experiment, many of them hadn't believed it."[25] The moon rocks our Apollo astronauts fetched back to our planet verified this report. Some Apollo samples proved to have 10 times as much titanium as the most titanium-rich rocks on Earth.[26]

Moreover, Dr. S. Ross Taylor, the geochemist in charge of chemical analysis, reported that "in addition to the titanium, there was a good deal of zirconium, yttrium, and beryllium—all of which had very high melting points and were known collectively as refractory elements."[27] Dr. Taylor was fairly confident that the samples were representative of at least a large area of the Moon's surface.

This evidence threw cold-mooners, dean of whom was the famed Nobelist Dr. Harold Urey, into a lunar tailspin. Dr. Urey admitted openly to his colleagues that he "was terribly puzzled by the rocks from the moon, and in particular by their titanium content." The lunar samples were "mind-blowers." "I just don't know how to account for the titanium,"[28] Dr. Urey confessed.

Neither did anyone else. Even hot-mooners were puzzled. Ironically, the titanium puzzle was even converting hot-mooners, like Taylor, into cold-mooners! Reports Mr. Cooper: "All this additional titanium, plus a high concentration of other elements with high melting points —the refractory ones—had made him [Taylor] take a new line of thought: instead of confirming his opinion that the moon must have been hot, he was paradoxically

beginning to wonder whether the increased amount of titanium might not be an indication that the moon had always been cold.

"The problem, he said, was that on the moon, *maria* the size of Texas had to be covered with melted rock containing fluid titanium, and one wouldn't expect titanium ever to be hot enough or viscous enough to do that, even on earth—and no one had ever suggested that the moon was *hotter* than earth. . . ."[29]

What could have produced heat intense enough to melt such tough metallic elements and amalgamate them into rocks? Could it not have been the heat produced by gigantic meteors crashing and exploding into the Moon, producing vast flows of titanium-rich lava?

Geologists, says Henry Cooper, found much evidence that this was *not* the case. "They could tell by the elements in a rock, and also by the size, shape, and arrangement of the crystals, such things as how long a rock had been molten, how much pressure it had been under, and how quickly it had cooled," he explains. "Impact melting is catastrophic and should result, the geochemists thought, in rocks that had been melted totally and quickly at high temperatures, and that had cooled rapidly."[30]

But geochemists knew that these rocks had not cooled rapidly, that indeed "they had stayed melted long enough to be differentiated—that is, many of the rocks had been molten long enough to break down into derivative types of rocks, and even whole families of rocks, one descended from another. This didn't sound to most geologists like impact melting. . . . They were much more inclined to guess that the magmas had welled up from inside the moon, where they simmered gently enough and long enough, to make complex varieties of rocks."[31]

Other lunar evidence also militated against meteoric impacting being responsible for this vast melting. Dr. Taylor was also convinced by another strange finding. This was the fact that Apollo 11's dust samples proved

to be a billion years older than Apollo 11's lunar rocks. Dr. Taylor believes that this "billion year spread in ages argued against impact melting."[32]

Why should this offer a difficulty? Because "it was hard to see how a massive meteor bombardment of the moon could have kept up for a billion years. Indeed, most cold-mooners had thought the major bombardment was over fairly quickly and marked the last phase of the formation of the moon. Dr. Taylor, who had abandoned [at the time] the cold moon, now thought he could argue an open-and-shut case against impact melting, as big impacts splattered debris all over the moon, [and] the impacts that made the younger maria should have scattered debris over the older *maria*. However, all the maria were notably smooth. Therefore the older maria must have been flooded later on with lava which covered the debris."[33]

This is not to deny that meteoric-caused impact melting occurred on the Moon. Taylor merely denied that they were cause of the major maria.

If impact melting was not the cause of the intense heat that melted the titanium and zirconium and other highly refractory elements, what did? Could not alien technology—highly advanced beings used highly advanced techniques (perhaps high amounts of radioactive elements placed in the right way and in the right amounts)—melt large amounts of interior portions of the Moon? Then all this was poured from time to time onto the surface exterior, either to reinforce weakened areas, as our Soviet theorists speculate, or perhaps even to hollow out great interior portions for their inner home.

According to Henry Cooper, Dr. Taylor once observed that "titanium was useful in building rockets and spaceships and a fortuitous metal to find on the Moon!"[34] Little did Dr. Taylor realize how correct he is! In light of the Soviet spaceship theory his remark is striking.

According to the two Soviet scientists, the Moon has been flooded with tough metallic "cement" containing

high amounts of titanium and other highly refractory elements. It would seem that here is just another piece in the spaceship Moon puzzle.

Taylor's own colleagues produced a model of the Moon based on seismic evidence. And what kind of a model did they come up with? A hollow metal (titanium) ball! Exactly what Vasin and Shcherbakov claim.

THE MYSTIFYING MAGNETISM OF THE MOON

Another mystery closely connected with the hot *vs.* cold debate is the discovery that the Moon at one time possessed or passed through a strong magnetic field. These magnetic findings baffle all lunar scientists, both hot- and cold-mooners, for the discovery in effect puts the heat on the cold-mooners and freezes the hot-mooners into a corner with a head-breaking conundrum.

On the first flights to the Moon both Soviet and American spacecraft carried equipment called magnetometers to measure the lunar magnetic field. All early results indicated that the Moon had little or no such field.

As *Science* magazine explains: "The lunar magnetometer experiment can be regarded as the modern counterpart of the first planetary magnetic experiment conducted by William Gilbert in 1600. Observing that a balanced magnetized needle dips toward the earth at an angle, Gilbert inferred that the earth itself acts as a large magnet. . . . Long-term measurements also indicate that the earth's molten interior is rotating at a slightly lower speed than the crust. This differential rotation is thought to produce the dynamo action needed to account for the earth's magnetic field."[35]

Though our first flights indicated that the Moon did not possess a magnetic field, moon rocks from successive Apollo flights proved the opposite, for these rocks contained "fossil magnetic fields" frozen into them, evidence that the Moon either once possessed or at least

went through a global magnetic field of considerable strength.

Scientists knew that this presented a bitter truth, bitter because it indicated, according to some scientists, that the Moon must have had a large molten iron core if it actually possessed this unexpectedly strong magnetic field. And, of course, equally valid data show that a hot core could never have existed inside the Moon.

How do lunar scientists explain their way out of this dilemma? Several theories have been advanced, most significantly one that maintains the Moon might have acquired its ancient magnetism by at one time entering another magnetic force field, thereby picking up remanent magnetism. Possibly this could have happened, if, as some scientists now claim, the Moon was formed elsewhere in the solar system or universe.

Of course, it is possible that the Moon did at one time possess its own magnetic field, the result of a molten iron lunar core that rotated according to the dynamo effect.

Dr. Charles Sonnett, deputy director of astronautics at NASA's Ames Research Center in Mountain View, California, believes that though there are grave difficulties with all theories, the hot-core dynamo-produced theory is impossible to accept. Sonnett explains: "We know the Moon today is not hot enough to sustain a dynamo and we know that its spin rate is far too slow for a dynamo effect."

Again lunar scientists are at a loss. Some insist on the hot-core theory despite its serious weaknesses. Others suggest that a huge solar flare up could have caused the field. Here too are grave difficulties, aside from the fact that our sun is too stable. The chief problems are due to complex astrophysical laws that rule out the sun having a strong enough magnetic field to cause magnetism—unless the Moon was much closer to the sun than it is now.

And for the Moon to have come close enough to the Earth to acquire its magnetism presents even greater problems for scientists. As Earl Ubell points out in his

"The Moon Is More of a Mystery Than Ever": "If the moon were once near the earth so that the earth's magnetic field could magnetize moon rocks, the two bodies would have been so close that the moon would break up under the gravitational pull of the earth. And so on. Any ideas?"[36]

We have seen evidence in rocks of a stable remanent magnetism that requires a lunar magnetic field far in excess of the present one. If the field was internally produced, the heat which permitted melting, and therefore the dynamo action deep in the interior, had to be removed so that the interior could become rigid enough to support the lopsided shape and the mascons. And the problems don't end there.

But they do end if we consider the Moon to be a spaceship with a strong internal hull. No problems of being torn apart would then exist even if the Moon did come close to another cosmic body. This celestial tug-of-war might also cause the Moon to be lopsided, but its strong internal hull would keep it intact.

Considering the age of spaceship Moon, the opportunities for this happening were many. But it could have also happened near the Earth. It is interesting to note that studies show the strongest evidence for magnetism to be on the far side, the very side that has the bulge.

Interestingly enough, a change in the Earth's magnetic field from reversed to normal (present-day) polarity, occurred 12,400 years ago.[37] Could this have anything to do with the Moon? Intriguingly, Bellamy, an English investigator, claimed our Moon came into orbit around our Earth (see Chapter 8) at this very time—about 12,500 years ago! Here is an area worth scientific investigation!

Paul Gast of MSC confesses: "One of the exciting things about this paradox or enigma [of magnetism] is [that] perhaps behind all of this is an explanation that none of us are thinking about today. Eventually some smart person will sit down and have a very bright idea which explains it all."[38]

The Soviet scientists have the answer. One which wipes out all difficulties and which makes a lunar magnetic field not only plausible but likely—even with a world that is without a dynamo-type hot core.

THE SOVIET SPACESHIP THEORY: THE MOST COMPREHENSIVE?

When the Apollo evidence came pouring back, most scientists agreed that all the major old theories were in deep trouble. Except for its initial premise—that intelligent life exists elsewhere in the universe besides on the planet Earth—the Soviet spaceship theory uses the evidence to answer many of the questions that older theories have chosen to ignore.

Scientists Vasin and Shcherbakov deserve anything but ridicule from more orthodox fellow scientists for having the courage to add up the facts, *for only the spaceship Moon theory makes understandable*:

1. Why the Moon is a freak world—too big and too far out to be a natural satellite of Earth.
2. Why and how the Moon could have a nearly perfect, circular orbit.
3. Why the Moon has such shallow craters.
4. Why and how the Moon can sustain its bulge.
5. Why some moon rocks are older than the Earth, and as old (at least) as the solar system.
6. Why the Moon seems to be "inside-out."
7. The various mysteries of the maria, mascons, and rilles.
8. How the Moon can be a dry-as-dust world and yet have occasional clouds of water vapor.
9. Why the Moon vibrates like a "huge gong," transmitting tremors great distances around and through itself.
10. How the Moon can spawn so many contradictions of data and findings.

We could go on and on, but let the scientists answer these few questions without the benefit of the Vasin-Shcherbakov theory. And *then let them laugh at the idea of our spacecraft Moon . . .*

MAN LOOKS ALOFT, AND WITH ERECTED EYES BEHOLDS HIS OWN HEREDITARY SKIES.

—Ovid

CHAPTER 7

OUR PLANET EARTH WITHOUT A MOON?

In our opening chapter we mentioned that "our mysterious Moon has hung tantalizingly over the heads of mankind for as long as man can remember." This, of course, is the prevailing orthodox opinion. However, there is fragmentary evidence that this might not have been always true, that indeed the Moon came into orbit around the planet Earth within the memory of mankind.

Before the Apollo flights the capture theory was the least accepted of the major theories concerning where the Moon came from. About the only leading NASA scientist who gave it even serious consideration was Dr. Harold Urey. Now, however, that the Apollo flights are history, and in face of the dying fission and planetary evolution theories, the moon capture theory has become increasingly popular. Two leading scientists, Gustaf Arrenhenius and H. Alfren, of the University of California, put the problem this way: "There is little doubt that the Moon is also a captured satellite, but its capture orbit and tidal evolution are still incomprehensible. . . ."[1]

It is, of course, impossible to ascertain exactly *when* the Moon was first consciously observed and seen by mankind. The early cave paintings of primitive man show interest in everything under the sun. But one

scholar points out that, strangely enough, there are no pictures of either the Moon or the stars. Obviously, this is in no way a proof that there was no moon circling the earth any more than it proves there were no stars in the sky then! But it is an intriguing observation. A number of interesting accounts handed down through the ages give evidence of this startling fact—that at one time *within the historical memory of mankind* our planet Earth was indeed without our Moon!

Aristotle tells us in his *Constitution of Tagean* that the barbarous Pelasgians, aborigines who inhabited Arcadia before the coming of the Greeks, held chief title to the land there from the first by the very fact that they were "already living on it *before* there was a moon in the heavens."[2] Because of this the early Greeks called them *Proselenes,* meaning before Selene or before the Moon. Selene is the Greek goddess of the Moon and the name is often applied to the Moon itself.

Plutarch wrote in *The Roman Question*: "These were Arcadians of Evanders' following, the so-called Pre-Lunar people."[3]

Similarly Ovid wrote: "The Arcadians are said to have possessed their land before the birth of Jove, and that folk is older than the Moon."[4]

Still other ancient writers allude to a time when there was no Moon in the sky above the Earth. Apollonius Rhodius mentions the time "when not all orbs were yet in the heavens, before the Danai and Deukalion races came into existence, and only the Arcadians lived, of whom it is said that they dwelt on the mountains and fed on acorns, before there was a moon."[5]

Similarly, the Romen writer Censorinus refers to the time eons beforé him when there was no Moon in Earth's skies.[6]

But the ancient Greek and Roman writers were not alone. Other peoples in ancient times referred to this astounding event. The Assyrians, Immanuel Velikovsky points out in his intriguing article "Earth Without a Moon," also "referred to the time of the Moon god as

the oldest period in the memory of the people: before other planetary gods came to dominate the world ages, the Moon was the Supreme Deity."[7]

Velikovsky also observes: "Such references are found in the inscriptions of Sargon II [about −720]: Since the far-off days of the Moon-god's time [era]"[8] Dr. Velikovsky also points out that there are scattered references in the Christian Bible "to the time before there was a moon."[9] Similarly, in Psalms 72:5 it is written: "Thou was feared since [the time of] the sun and before [the time of] the moon, a generation of generations."

Velikovsky, commenting on these passages and other seemingly contradictory ones in sacred scriptures, observes: "A 'generation of generations' means a very long time. Of course, it is no use to counter this phrase with the myth of the first chapter of Genesis, a tale brought down from exotic and later sources. . . . It is probably the most remote remembrance of mankind: the time when there was no moon."[10]

Naturally, people today will find it difficult to accept the idea that the Moon has not always been our satellite merely on the testimony of scattered and fragmentary references in ancient literature and history. Nevertheless, there are people around the world whose legends show traces of a time when our Moon did not shine in Earth's skies.

One of the foremost scholars on this subject is Dr. H.S. Bellamy, whose fascinating work *Moons, Myths and Men* points to the fact that the legends of many lands back up the capture theory of the Moon. Dr. Bellamy, who in no way espouses the Shcherbakov-Vasin theory of an intelligently formed "spaceship" moon, asserts that many of these myths "contain certain statements of fact and description of certain sequences of events, which could not possibly have been invented."[11]

One of these peoples whose memory of a world without a moon lives on in their oral tradition are the Indian tribes of Mozces who inhabit the plateau of Bogotá in

Colombia. Bellamy claims they definitely "remember a time before the present Moon became the companion of the Earth."[12]

Back to that great iconoclast of scientific orthodoxy Immanuel Velikovsky to sum it all up: "The traditions of diverse people offer corroborative testimony to the effect that in a very early age, but still in the memory of mankind, no moon accompanied the earth. Since human beings already peopled the earth, it is impossible that the moon sprang from it: there must have existed a solid lithosphere, not a liquid earth. Thus it is more probable that the moon was captured by the earth."[13]

We have already seen the tremendous problems involved in the capture theory in regard to celestial mechanics and the further difficulty of explaining the Moon's almost perfectly circular orbit today. But there is something further that tips us off that it was not a natural gravitational capture.

This information comes through what the vast majority of modern scientists considered an unlikely source, the ill-fated Hoerbigerean theory.

In modern times an Austrian engineer named Hans Hoerbiger advanced the theory that the Moon was captured by our planet and became our present satellite. Hoerbiger resolved the difficulties of celestial mechanics of such a capture by postulating the existence of other moons in Earth's skies at the time. Despite his wild theories, many of which have since been completely discredited and disproven, the Austrian attracted a number of scholarly followers, and his theories gained millions of adherents in the heyday of Nazi Germany.

Hoerbiger's claim that our Moon was captured by the Earth at a time when a number of other earth satellites were circling the Earth was scoffed at by lunar scholars everywhere. But since the Apollo flights have ruled out the other major theories significant numbers of lunar experts have become gradually and reluctantly converted to this unlikely capture theory—but certainly not the way that Hoerbiger postulated it. Some of these Moon

experts, like Dr. Harold Urey and Gordon McDonald, are even now talking about the possibility that when our Moon was captured "a number of preexisting earth satellites [were] circling the earth."[14] Perhaps someday they'll even consider the "spaceship" theory!

WHAT IS THERE IN THEE, MOON, THAT THOU SHOULDST MOVE MY HEART SO POTENTLY?
—John Keats

CHAPTER 8

ALIEN LUNAR ASTRONAUTS IN MAN'S PAST?

A visitor coming to our corner of the cosmos would marvel at the contrasts between Earth and Moon, these two islands in the sky, so near each other and yet so unlike. Our Earth and the Moon are two worlds of opposite extremes. The one a beautiful, water-covered verdured planet teeming with life. The other a seemingly hostile, lifeless pile of rock and dust.

But now it would seem that this island in man's neighboring sky is really an invisible island after all. For it contains a world that man never really suspected. A world that obviously did not originate on our side of space but was steered here across the starlit shores of night to lock itself into orbit around our planet at some indeterminate time in our past.

The major question (if the Russian theory is correct) is not only who the Moon aliens were, but whether or not *they had any connection with us.* It is hard to believe that they would have journeyed so far only to lock themselves into orbit around us and leave without having ever visited our planet. And if they did come here, what role (if any) did they play in the rise of man? And that question of questions, whether man may be a child of these alien beings, is a possibility that cannot be overlooked.

We realize that book-long studies have been undertaken concerning this subject, but in this short chapter we would like to share some of this shocking knowledge, as it applies to spaceship Moon.

"CITY OF THE DYING MOON"

Probably the place on our planet most directly connected with the Moon was the strangely advanced prehistoric center located in the high Andes mountains of the Lake Titicaca region. Legends and Indian traditions tell us that here a city named Tiahuanaco was founded by "sky gods" who came down from the stars and the Moon and "dwelt in the heights." Strikingly, the name of this city, according to one of its foremost scholars, Dr. H.S. Bellamy, means *The city of the "decaying moon"* or *the city of the "doomed satellite."* (Alternate translation: "Divine Island . . . kept by the Gods above the Waters.")[1]

Ancient Indian legends claim that these "star gods" came here in fiery chariots to chisel out of stone a celestial citadel, and then departed. There is no known alternative explanation for the beginning or even the end to this strange culture.

Tiahuanaco is a city of gargantuan ruins, amazing structures, glorious ceramics, and a wondrous irrigation system. Yet as Sir Clemens Markham observed: "Such a region is only capable of sustaining a scanty population of hardy mountaineers and laborers."[2]

At a height of more than 12,500 feet, where the air is so thin that natives of the nearby regions find it extremely difficult to work, ancient peoples built with gigantic stone blocks, some of them weighing as much as 100 tons and carried great distances, the city Tiahuanaco. "It is too cold for crops, so that the area of itself could not have supported the large-scale population necessary to construct all this," remarked Markham.[3]

These enormous ruins have been plundered and pil-

laged time and again for the building stones, but the remains that stand are still tremendously impressive. There is not only the immense size of the stones to marvel at, but the fact that they were cut and ground to a smooth finish and fitted together with a precision that is astonishing. Yet the stone is so hard that even our toughest modern steel tools blunt when trying to cut it.

The Spanish who stripped the city thousands of years later were also impressed with the incredible accuracy of the cut stones and their enormous size. Many stones still stand where the Spanish found them because they simply were too big for them to move.

Other indications exist that this city of mystery was extraterrestrial in origin. Dr. Bellamy takes note of the remarkable sculptured portrait heads of men with "high foreheads, open faces, bold profiles, energetic chins" and wonders about the origin of "the culture behind this culture." One proud face made an unforgettable impression on Bellamy: "For it seems to force its proud face powerfully out of the hard stone, as if important with the sculpture's slow chisel . . . knowing that its likeness would not vanish but endure for ages. . . ." Bellamy concludes: "The culture behind this culture . . . that is what takes our breath away."[4]

Louis Pauwell and Jacques Bergier, the authors of *The Morning of the Magicians,* agree: "If these sculptures, highly abstract and so intensely stylized that they leave us dumbfounded, were really executed by these superior Beings, then we need look no further for the origin of the myth which relates that the arts were given to Man by the Gods. . . ."[5]

Was it a civilization on this planet that produced this great center with all its mystifying achievements? Many scholars have asked this same question but have repeatedly come up empty-handed. None were thought to have existed. Paul Hermann says in his book *The Great Age of Discovery:* "The Tiahuanaco culture appeared 'ready-made' and without a trace of intermediate stages of development."[6]

Some scholars believe that this city is the oldest in the world, and its culture the most ancient on our planet. Arthur Posnansky, who even other scholars of the place readily admit was the scholar of scholars here, thought it was built around 16,000 years ago by "fair-skinned, fair-haired giants." H.S. Bellamy, the English scholar who admits that Posnansky's "knowledge of the antiquities of Tiahuanaco was unsurpassed," thought the ruins of this city to be between 12,000 to 14,000 years old, although some of his earlier writings admit they could be much older. Archaeological and radiocarbon analysis, however, indicate that the age of this Andean culture is much younger, perhaps no more than four thousand years.

There are, however, strange pieces of evidence that tend to confound everyone's theories. Professor Denis Saurat of France has identified the heads of animals adorning the calendar of Tiahuanaco as those of toxodons, prehistoric animals which lived in the Teritary period millions of years ago. The German archaeologist Edmund Kiess held that a calendar found there was based on observations of Tertiary epoch astronomers. Could it be that the bizarre theory of some, that the city is over a million years old, is correct after all? No one knows for sure. We are only certain of uncertainty at Tiahuanaco.

Is there any concrete evidence of the extraterrestrial origin of these mysterious master builders beyond the culture's impressive nature? There are two outstanding monuments that point their fingers skyward, namely, the great Gate of the Sun and the Great Idol of Tiahuanaco. The famous Gate of the Sun is a monument fashioned from a single block of andesite stone weighing about ten tons. It stands four feet high and 12 feet wide, a solitary doorway leading only to the sun and space, thus its name.

This monument has some startling pictures carved upon its face. A flying god stands in the center flanked by 46 flying figures. The central figure is humanlike, yet

rays surround its head and he holds in each hand what looks like symbolic bolts of lightning. This, we might add, is remarkably similar to other sky gods around the world.

Some scholars claim that the carved series of hieroglyphic designs give celestial knowledge. Jacques Bergier, a nuclear physicist and careful researcher in this area, maintains that the Gate of the Sun "bears inscriptions which it is thought contain a Venus calendar, spaceships and extraterrestrial beings."[7]

Dr. Bellamy saw an earthly calendar here. According to his findings, "the solar year must have been only 298 days long when the frieze was carved. There were such years, contends Bellamy, about 11,500 years ago, at a time when 'our moon was not yet the companion of our earth.' "

It might seem simply an imaginative theory except in light of the Soviet spaceship Moon hypothesis.

Perhaps an even more remarkable monument is the Great Idol of Tiahuanaco which was found buried in the mud of this ruined city in 1903. This huge stone was examined by Kiess, who concluded that it was a calendar based upon observations of advanced astronauts eons ago. This incredible piece of stone sculpture is more than 24 feet long and weighs more than 20 tons. Chiseled on its surface are hundreds of symbols, all done with superb workmanship. These too have been translated, and it was found that the monument is also a calendar. However, this calendar, according to some researchers, gives comprehensive information concerning the Moon, the Earth's nearby neighbor. It among other things gives the position of the Moon according to the time of day, hour by hour. It also contains, as Dr. H.S. Bellamy puts it, a "comprehensive repository of the astronomical knowledge of its makers."

Included on the Idol are a record of the revolutions of the Earth, eclipses and solstices of the sun and Moon, and even the latitude of Tiahuanaco. Certainly, poor, primitive, stone-age Indians who inhabited the Andes

region thousands of years ago could not possibly have been that advanced. Bellamy claims that the Idol gives the state of the heavens as it was 27,000 years ago!

Edmund Kiess asserts that Bellamy was "the first to recognize that the Calendar of Tiahuanaco is not a calendar of this world but one of a world infinitely older. . . ."[8] But as he goes on to explain, "it is based on the motion in the heavens of a cosmic body which existed then."[9]

We wonder: *Could not this cosmic body be our spaceship Moon?* The legends here—even the name of the city itself—revolve around the Moon. Moon temples, "moon houses," idols of lunar gods and goddesses proliferate here, along with symbols of winged figures and winged discs. Bellamy tells us in his book *Men, Moons and Myths*: "On the pottery of Tiahuanaco, that enigmatic prehistoric city in the highest Andes, the Moon is frequently found depicted. It is significant that it is always drawn as a tiny disk and never with its much more characteristic sickle forms."[10]

Professor Bellamy authored the book *The Great Idol of Tiahuanaco* with another scholar, Dr. P. Allan, who helped translate the writings on the great Idol. According to these authors, "the symbols of the idol record that the satellite [the Moon] came into orbit around the Earth 11,500 to 13,000 years ago."[11] At that time it was performing 425 revolutions around the Earth in a year of 288 days.

What is remarkable about this record is that it nearly coincides with the figures that the aforementioned Austrian engineer-cosmologist Hans Hoerbiger came up with before he died in 1931. He claimed, as we have noted, that the Moon was captured by our gravitation, and his book *Theory of the Satellites* was published in 1927, five years before the Idol was deciphered. Bellamy and Allan maintain that this work basically contains the same information about our Moon as is chiseled on this stone which may well be more than 12,000 years old.

And as if this isn't enough, the remarkable Hoerbiger also explains that from Tertiary deposits he deduced that the Moon had a predecessor, and that this "predecessor of the Moon was a powerful satellite," four-fifths the size of the present Moon, or about 1750 miles in diameter. In other words, the present Moon came into orbit around the Earth about 13,500 years ago, when, quite possibly, there was already another Moon there.

Could it be that our Selenites, seeing their Moon was in bad shape, and discovering a potential new spaceship circling Earth, decided to lock themselves in orbit around us, fashioning out their new world over a great and indeterminate span of time? And during that time, seeing that the Earth was already evolving higher forms of life, did they decide to speed up Nature's work by seeding a planet with their kind? Then, having completed a new world, they left in their new cosmic home, perhaps leaving just a remnant of their race behind.

Admittedly this is speculation, but the evidence taken as a whole points in one direction—to outer space and the stars. And considering the symbols and meanings of names attached to this place, also to the Moon! Here, at the "City of the Doomed Moon" may lie the secrets of man's past. And the answer to the present enigma of our spaceship Moon!

Near the end of his *The Calendar of Tiahuanaco* Dr. Bellamy makes an appeal to scientists of the world to investigate his moon theories as they revolve around Tiahuanaco:

> We would welcome especially the cooperation of astronomers. . . . Representatives of other scientists are also invited to take an active interest in our Theories, since their disciplines are very considerably involved by our findings. Anthropologists, archaeologists, architects, biologists, geographers, geologists, geophysicists, hydrologists, mythologists, palaeontologists, technologists—who are tired of gnawing at already long clean-gnawed

bones, will find here new meaty ones to put their teeth into. Here are new vistas to explore! Here are wide fields on which to win spurs! Here are horizons such as they have never dreamt of![12]

We echo Dr. Bellamy's superlative appeal today. Only our request is in regard to this even more fantastic find, this even more undreamed of discovery—*spaceship Moon. Surely no scientific theory today is more deserving of the attention of man.*

MAN MUST EXPLORE. AND THIS IS EXPLORATION AT ITS GREATEST.
—Astronaut David Scott
Apollo 15

CHAPTER 9

THE MOON'S UFO CONNECTION

The question that is probably haunting every reader at this point is: If it is true that our Moon is an artificially hollowed-out and artificially fashioned world created by intelligent alien beings, why is there not more evidence on its surface, and why haven't our astronauts reported any?

First of all, with a mere six trips to that orb, only the barest fraction of the surface has been explored. But in these few expeditions many strange encounters and discoveries were made.

Even before the Apollo expeditions both American and Soviet space probes extensively photographed this planetoid from close range. And some observers are convinced surprising discoveries have been made.

The Soviet magazine *Interavai* reports that photos taken by Lunar Orbiter 2 from a distance of 23 miles show a series of strange stones lying on the western edge of the Sea of Tranquility. Some believe that these weird formations are more than just "natural." The shadows of eight of these gigantic stones, which are at least 50 feet in diameter, and range from 40 to 70 feet long, stretch for great distances. One is startlingly high—213 meters—and casts a shadow resembling that of the Washington Monument. Not a few observers believe

that these stones are not merely natural formations but were erected menhirs placed on the Moon by intelligent beings.

Admittedly, there is no conclusive proof that here is alien work. The discovery of large spirelike stones randomly scattered around the lunar landscape hardly warrants such a conclusion. Along with Dr. Richard Shorthill, most scientists claim that they are the "result of some geophysical event."

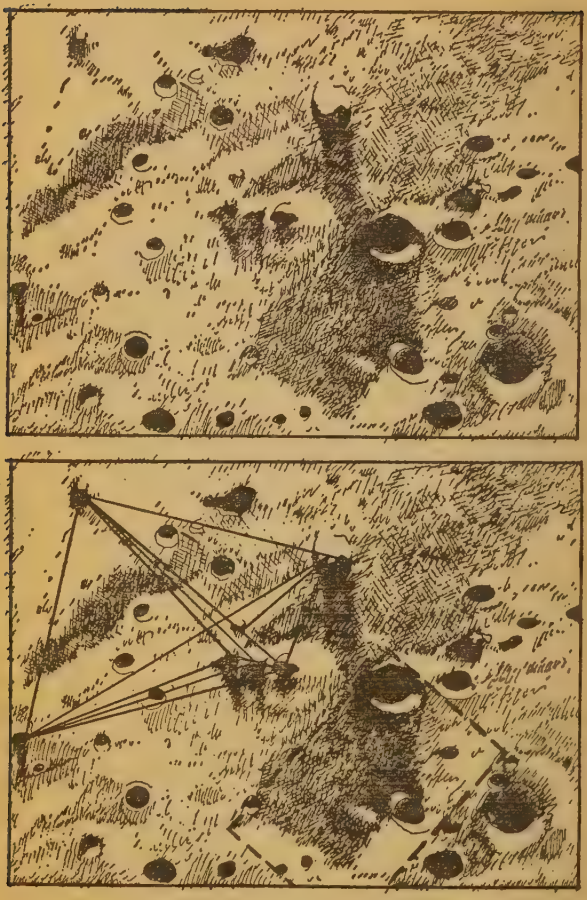
However, not all agree. Dr. William Blair, of the Boeing Institute of Biotechnology, and an expert in physical anthropology and archaeology, claims that this is not so, pointing out that they are geometrically positioned!

But there is more evidence. A vast rectangular depression lies to the west of the tallest spire. Blair observes: "The shadow thrown by such depressions seems to suggest four angles at 90 degrees, and the structure persuades one to think it is like an excavation whose walls have been eroded or fallen inwards."[1]

Does Blair therefore think that these spires and the wall-like structure were built by intelligent beings? When asked this question directly Blair cracked: "Do you want to confirm it so that you can discredit me? . . . Well, I will tell you this: if a similar thing had been found on Earth, archeology's first concern would have been to inspect the place and carry out trail excavations to assess the extent of the discovery."[2]

In *Not of This World* Peter Kolosimo observes: "We [orthodox scientists] consider them as natural formations: but we should still feel obliged to admit that they are the first of this type we have ever seen; because if they had been produced by chance we would find ourselves faced with something even more amazing than giving a piece of chalk to a monkey which then proceeds by mere chance to set out the Pythagorean theorem."[3]

Similar Soviet photographs taken by Luna 9 (February 4, 1966 over the Ocean of Storms) shows similar strange stones that tower over 150 feet.



The Blair Cuspids—natural formations or erected artifacts? ". . . if a similar thing had been found on Earth, archeology's first concern would have been to inspect the place and carry out trial excavations to assess the extent of the discovery."

The Soviet magazine *Technology of Youth* suggests that the "stone markers" were "planned structures."[4]

The same article mentions the American photographs of the strange spires (referred to by them as "pointed pyramids") with the same suggestion that they are not of natural but alien origin. Russian scientist Dr. Ivanov estimates from the shadows cast that one was about 15 stories high!

Dr. Farouk El Baz, one of NASA's leading geologists and cited as an authority several times in this work, commented on these strange spires recently: "There have been quite a few unexplainable objects, but most interesting are these tremendously long shadows cast by enormous spires seen almost everywhere on the Moon. These objects become very dramatic anomalies to us—huge, huge shadows that stretched for miles and thinned out like needles at their points. Some of these spires are only 100 yards high, others are taller than the tallest buildings on Earth—often two and three times taller. They're much lighter in color than the surrounding mare or lava fields, which gives them an additional aura of mystery. They seem to have been constructed of different material."[5]

In answer to the questions of the magazine researcher, "Where did they come from? How did they originate?," El Baz answered: "That's what we're trying to find out. All sorts of geological theories have been put forth for these long, whitish structures. Unfortunately, none of the lunar landings have ever come close enough to get pictures of these formations from the surface of the Moon, and now that the Apollo lunar program is over who knows?"[6]

STRANGE BLOCKS ON THE MOON

However, we do know from Apollo astronauts–Mission Control conversations that our astronauts did come

across other strange hard-to-explain structures on the surface of this strange alien world.

Consider this conversation, for instance, which took place during the Apollo 16 mission between Ground Control and the Apollo 16 astronauts:

DUKE: These devices are unbelievable. I'm not taking a gnomon up there.

YOUNG: O.K., but man, that's going to be a steep bridge to climb.

DUKE: You got—YOWEE! Man—John, I tell you this is some sight up here. Tony, the blocks in Buster are covered—the bottom is covered with blocks, five meters across. Besides the blocks seem to be in a preferred orientation, northeast to southwest. They go all the way up the wall on those two sides and on the other side you can only barely see the outcropping at about 5 percent. Ninety percent of the bottom is covered with blocks that are 50 centimeters and larger.

CAPCOM: Good show. Sounds like a secondary . . .

DUKE: Right out here . . . the blue one that I described from the lunar module window is colored because it is glass-coated, but underneath the glass it is crystalline . . . the same texture as the Genesis Rock . . . Dead on my mark.

YOUNG: Mark. It's open.

DUKE: I can't believe it!

YOUNG: And I put that beauty in dry!

CAPCOM: Dover. Dover. We'll start EVA-2 immediately.

DUKE: You'd better send a couple more guys up here. They'll have to try (garble).

CAPCOM: Sounds familiar.

DUKE: Boy, I tell you, these EMUs and PLSSs are really superfantastic!

Saga reporter Joseph F. Goodavage, who reports this conversation in his fine article on lunar mysteries entitled "Did Our Astronauts Find Evidence of UFOs on

the Moon?," asks: "Are those excited cries the reaction to their equipment a big bag of rocks, or were the astronauts making an astonishing discovery—perhaps some kind of artifact?"[7]

STRANGE DOMES ON THE MOON

Perhaps the strangest of all the mysterious structures discovered on the Moon are the weird domes which started appearing not more than a few decades ago. By the 1960s, over 200 of these white lunar domes had been seen. Some are reported to be as large as 700 feet in diameter and, according to one observatory report, are being sighted in increasing numbers.

The English astronomer H.P. Wilkins states that the domes were first discovered in 1953. On September 26th of that year, F.H. Thorton sighted "a sort of island of light amid the blackness, clearly proving that it was raised, in fact a dome."[8] Wilkins observed: "It is curious that this is the first time that such a thing has been seen. Is it possible that it has only become a dome recently?"[9]

Of course, Wilkins was convinced that they are not true "domes" but rounded hills, probably caused by volcanic eruption rather than meteors. "More likely they were formed by the slow welling out of viscid lava, exactly like similar features on our own earth: the mamelons of the Island of Bourbon, for example." In a sense, they may be unburst blisters or bubbles.

What is most surprising about them is that they were not known, at least in any numbers, until quite recently. Wilkins: "It is curious to say the least that the earlier observers, many of them possessed of good telescopes, should have recorded [so] few of the domes, or 'bowler hats.' Nasmyth says that no such things exist apart from the one to the north of Birt, near the Straight Wall."[10] Today they are known in considerable numbers. Wilkins

and Patrick Moore claim to have discovered nearly a 100 of them.

However, that was in the mid-fifties. They seem to be appearing in increasing numbers according to some competent observers, new domes appearing out of nowhere. Some scientists even claim some have appeared only to later disappear, although this has never been verified.

Our Apollo astronauts saw domes on the Moon several times. Although there is no indication that they made a special study of them, there are a number of Apollo conversations in which they talk about seeing them.

Here is one of those incidents, taken from the flight of Apollo 16:

APOLLO 16: (DUKE speaking from the ship *Orion* resting on the Moon): We felt it under our feet. It's a soft spot. Firmer. Where we stand. I tell you one thing. If this place had air, it'd sure be beautiful. It's beautiful with or without air. The scenery up on top of Stone Mountain, you'd have to be there to see this to believe it—those domes are incredible!

MISSION CONTROL: O.K., could you take a look at that smokey area there and see what you can see on the face?

DUKE: Beyond the domes, the structure goes almost into the ravine that I described and one goes on to the top. In the northeast wall of the ravine you can't see the delineation. To the northeast there are tunnels, to the north they are dipping east to about 30 degrees.

Or check out this weird conversation that occurred on the flight of Apollo 17:

MISSION CONTROL: Go ahead, Ron.

EVANS: O.K., Robert. I guess the big thing I want to report from the back side on this one is that I took another look at the—the—cloverleaf in Aitken with the binocs. And that southern dome (garble) to the east.

MISSION CONTROL: We copy that, Ron. Is there any difference in the color of the dome and the Mare Aitken there?

EVANS: Yes, there is . . . That Condor, Condorsey, or Condorecet or whatever you want to call it there. Condorecet Hotel is the one that has got the diamond-shaped fill down in the uh—floor.

MISSION CONTROL: Robert. Understand. Condorcet Hotel.

EVANS: Condor. Condorcet Alpha. They've either caught a landslide on it or it's got a—and it doesn't look like (garble) in the other side of the wall in the northwest side.

MISSION CONTROL: O.K., we copy that Northwest wall of Condorcet A.

EVANS: The area is oval or elliptical in shape. Of course, the ellipse is toward the top.

Although NASA has always held that the findings of lunar and space expeditions have never been held secret, it is interesting to note that Dr. Farouk El Baz, one of NASA's foremost scientists, does admit "not every discovery has been announced." Could it be that a secret study of the domes has already been made? Could it be that NASA and the American government know much more about our Spaceship Moon than they are willing to divulge?

Dr. El Baz also admitted that NASA possibly used codes in some of their mission-control conversations with our astronauts. Why use codes if there are no secrets?

Consider this Apollo 16 ground-to-air conversation:

CAPCOM: What about the albedo change in the subsurface soil? Of course you saw it first at Flagg and were probably more excited about it there. Was there any difference in it there—and Buster and Alsep and LM?

DUKE: No. Around the Alsep it was just in spots. At Plum

it seemed to be everywhere. My predominant impression was that the white albedo was (garble) than the fine cover on top.

CAPCOM: O.K. Just a question now for you, John. When you got to halfway, or even thought it was halfway, we understand you looped around south, is that right?

YOUNG: That's affirm. We came upon—Barbara.

Joseph F. Goodavage, who includes this conversation in a *Saga* magazine article, comments: "Barbara? That really needed some explanation, so I made an appointment with NASA geologist Farouk El Baz at the National Aeronautics and Space Museum. Here's how part of our conversation went:

Saga: What do you suppose Young meant when he said they came upon "Barbara"?

EL BAZ: I can't really say. Code, perhaps . . .

Saga: But Barbara is an odd name for something on the Moon, isn't it?

EL BAZ: Yes, an enigma. As I suggested, perhaps a code, but I don't really know."[11]

The following Apollo 17 transcription seems to indicate just that, for the astronauts, after a startling discovery, are ordered to switch to code. Here is that Apollo 17 ground-to-air conversation:

LMP (lunar module pilot): What are you learning?

CAPCOM: Hot spots on the Moon, Jack?

LMP: Where are your big anomalies? Can you summarize them quickly?

CAPCOM: Jack, we'll get that for you on the next pass.

CMP (command module pilot): Hey, I can see a bright spot down there on the landing site where they might have blown off some of that halo stuff.

CAPCOM: Roger. Interesting. Very—go to KILO. KILO.

CMP: Hey, its gray now and the number one extends.

CAPCOM: Roger. We got it. And we copy that it's all on the way out down there. Go to KILO KILO on that.
CMP: Mode is going to HM. Recorder is off. Lose a little communication there, huh? Okay, there's bravo. Bravo, select OMNI. Hey, you know you'll never believe it. I'm right over the edge of Orientale. I just looked down and saw the light flash again.
CAPCOM: Roger. Understand.
CMP: Right at the end of the rille.
CAPCOM: Any chance of—?
CMP: That's on the east of Orientale.
CAPCOM: You don't suppose it could be Vostok? (a Russian probe)

The Vostok flights took place in the early sixties and were strictly Earth orbiters. They never reached the Moon! Was NASA just trying to make conversation or could it be code again?

MORE ALIEN MYSTERIES ON THE MOON

While on the Moon did any of our astronauts see any indications of alien handiwork, such as strange constructions, disturbances or the like? Consider this strange Apollo 16 conversation:

Orion: Orion has landed. I can't see how far the (garble) . . . this is a blocked field we're in from the south ray—tremendous difference in the albedo. I just get the feeling that these rocks may have come from somewhere else. Everywhere we saw the ground, which is about the whole sunlit side, you had the same delineation the Apollo 15 photography showed on Hadley, Delta and Radley Mountains . . .
CAPCOM: O.K. Go ahead.
Orion: I'm looking out here at Stone Mountain and it's got—it looks like somebody has been out there plow-

ing across the side of it. The beaches—the benches —look like one sort of terrace after another, right up the side. They sort of follow the contour of it right around.

CAPCOM: Any difference in the terraces?

Orion: No, Tony. Not that I could tell from here. These terraces could be raised but of (garble) or something like that . . .

CASPER: (Mattingly in lunar orbit overhead): Another strange sight over here. It looks—a flashing light—I think it's Annbell. Another crater here looks as though it's flooded except that this same material seems to run up on the outside. You can see a definite patch of this stuff that's run down inside. And that material lays or has been structured on top of it, but it lays on top of things that are outside and higher. It's a very strange operation

And we might add that this is a very strange conversation. What are the real meanings of such terms used here as structure, blocked field, beaches, benches, terraces and the like? NASA claims that they are just metaphoric terms to describe unusual natural formations. Not all authorities agree, however.

And what are we to make of this puzzling Apollo 17 conversation which took place on December 29th, 1972:

CAPCOM: Roger. America, we're tracking you on the map here, watching it.

LMP: O.K., Al Buruni has got variations on its floor. Variations in the lights and in its albedo. It almost looks like a pattern as if the water were flowing up on a beach. Not in great areas, but in small areas around the southern side, and the part that looks like the water-washing pattern is a much lighter albedo, although I cannot see any real source for it. The texture, however, looks the same.

CAPCOM: America, Houston. We'd like you to hold off

switching to OMNI Charlie until we can cue you on that.

CDR: Wilco.

There then follows discussion about sighting a UFO which we reported verbatim earlier. We'll pick up the conversation as it returns to discussion of watermarks seen on the Moon.

LMP: O.K. 96:03. Now we're getting some clear—looks like pretty clear high watermarks on this—

CMP: There's high watermarks all over the place there.

LMP: On the north part of Tranquillitatis. That's Maraldi there, isn't it? Are you sure we're 13 miles up?

CAPCOM: You're 14 to be exact, Ron.

LMP: I tell you there's some mare, ride or scarps that are very, very sinuous—just passing one. They not only cross the low planar areas but go right up the side of a crater in one place and a hill in another. It looks very much like a constructional ridge—a mare-like ridge that is as clearly constructional as I would want to see it.

Near the base of Mt. Hadley astronauts saw horizontal layering that they likened to high watermarks such as those seen along a shore. The idea of some scientists that the lunar seas were once flooded with water has been long abandoned, so these "high watermarks," as a *New York Times* report claims, "represent one more puzzle for scientists."[12]

If the Moon has been inhabited for perhaps millions of years, or if it was inhabited a mere few thousand years ago, or possibly, is even inhabited today, why then are there no signs in the almost erosionless, changeless lunar surface of the inhabitants? Did they come and go solely by flying machines of some type, perhaps through an opening or openings into their inner lunar world?

We now know that the Moon is not a changeless orb where even an astronaut's footprint would last for a mil-

lion years. Changes are taking place on her surface all the time, and one of the most surprising discoveries is the great movement of dust that takes place. This could easily account for the covering up or obliterating of evidence like footprints, tracks, or markings that could have been left by beings who have landed upon or trod upon the Moon's surface.

This discovery was reported by California Institute of Technology scientist Dr. J.J. Rennilson, and Lunar Sciences Institute geophysicist Dr. D.R. Criswell, who claim that the glow on the Moon's horizon, observed by Surveyor spacecraft in the late sixties, was probably caused by scattered dust clouds that are lifted from the Moon's surface by electrostatic forces. They theorize that the dust is churned up by an electrostatic field that develops as sunlight moves across the Moon, lighting hilltops and crater rims and casting their sides into shadow. Opposite electrical charges are formed in the light and dark areas, causing dust particles to levitate and form scattered clouds, which dissolve as they move into the dark side of the Moon where the electrical field is neutralized. It is estimated that 20 million tons of lunar dust are involved in such cloud formations each year.[13]

However, strange tracks have been discovered by Apollo astronauts. For instance, in this Apollo 15 transcription of August 1, 1971, Scott and Irwin reported that they had seen such strange tracks:

SCOTT: Arrowhead really runs east to west.
MISSION CONTROL: Roger, we copy.
IRWIN: Tracks here as we go down slope.
MC: Just follow the tracks, huh?
IRWIN: Right we're (garble). We know that's a fairly good run. We're bearing 320, hitting range for 413 . . . I can't get over those lineations, that layering on Mount Hadley.
SCOTT: I can't either. That's really spectacular.
IRWIN: They sure look beautiful.
SCOTT: Talk about organization!

IRWIN: That's the most organized structure I've ever seen!

SCOTT: It's (garble) so uniform in width.

IRWIN: Nothing we've seen before this has shown such uniform thickness from the top of the tracks to the bottom.

What are these tracks? Who made them? Where did they come from? Does NASA have an answer for the people?

Here is another weird conversation, made by Harrison Schmitt, a trained geologist, who on Apollo 17 reported excitedly:

SCHMITT: I see tracks—running right up the wall of the crater.

(And what was the mysterious response of this strange sighting that Mission Control came back with?)

MC: (Gene Cernan) Your photopath runs directly between Pierce and Pease. Pierce Brava, go to Bravo, Whiskey, Whiskey, Romeo.

If this is not code what is it? And why switch to the use of strange meaningless "code" words if NASA was not trying to cover up something startling, something that needed to be hidden from the public? In fact, science writer Joseph Goodavage maintains that "whenever something was discovered, the astronauts and CAPCOM apparently switched to a prearranged code, sometimes even on an alternate publicly unmonitorable channel."[14]

NASA scientist Farouk El Baz admitted in a magazine interview that NASA did commit itself to a secretive search for various things on the Moon. "We're looking for something—something . . ." He admitted that "a huge, bridgelike structure in Mare Crisium [has] been reported . . . That is all I can say about it." When asked if "that was a bridge—that you've actually found

artificial structures or some kind of intelligently placed artifact?"[15] El Baz quickly denied it.

"No. No. I am not admitting such a thing. But when you start to think about it, almost anything is possible. There are almost no limits how you can interpret the many things astronomers have been observing and reporting for several centuries. Now the astronauts are seeing many anomalies close-up."[16]

The problem is that an alien artifact may well seem like no artifact at all to our astronauts, or man, in general. We tend to think in terms of arrows, or "street signs," perhaps; messages in block capitals declaring "WE WERE HERE."

The fact of the matter is, man could at this moment be staring at such an alien artifact and not know it.

Whatever that artifact is, it would first be in plain view, as logic dictates. Next, it would probably not be something that would cause panic, or even be recognized if man were not ready for such contact, but the *hints* would be there if we were advanced enough to greet out neighbors in the universe.

Hopefully this book has pointed to some of those hints, for man has been looking at such an artifact for thousands of years, yet, unfortunately, hasn't recognized it for what it is. It is in plain view, does not behave according to natural law, and could not be recognized for what it is until man was advanced enough to actually go there. What better calling card could there be, besides this spaceship Moon?

AS WE LEAVE THE MOON, WE SHALL LEAVE AS WE CAME, AND GOD WILLING, WE SHALL RETURN.

—Astronaut Eugene Cernan

CHAPTER 10

LUNAR MYSTERY SPOTS WORTH VISITING

Although it is not probable that man will return to the Moon within this decade and possibly not even within this century, he will eventually go back to his neighboring world. If and when he does, here are some places worth investigating that may help prove whether or not the Moon is what our two Soviet scientists Vasin and Shcherbakov say it is—a hollowed-out asteroid-spaceship.

1. THE STRAIGHT WALL

An area of great interest and worthy of immediate investigation is the nearly seventy-mile-long straight wall, "a feature so artificial in appearance," says one recent modern astronomy guide, "that in the late nineteenth century it was referred to frequently as 'The Railway.' In past centuries many astronomers felt that it was indeed an artificial creation made by alien intelligence on the Moon. But today astronomers generally agree that it is merely a huge fault line, though a very unusual one, for it seems almost as though something here were pushing up through the surface of the Moon.

The two scientists authoring the "spaceship" theory

offer this speculation: No doubt one of the most splendid features on the lunarscape—a straight "wall" nearly 500 yards high and over 60 miles long—formed as a result of one of the armour plates bending under the impact of celestial torpedoes and raising one of its straight, even edges.

The edges do present a steep cliff which rises steadily for about 1200 feet at about a 45-degree angle outward from the Moon. Intriguingly, scattered around the huge structure are those large whitish domes, that have, it seems, been appearing in larger numbers in recent years on the surface of this strange world.

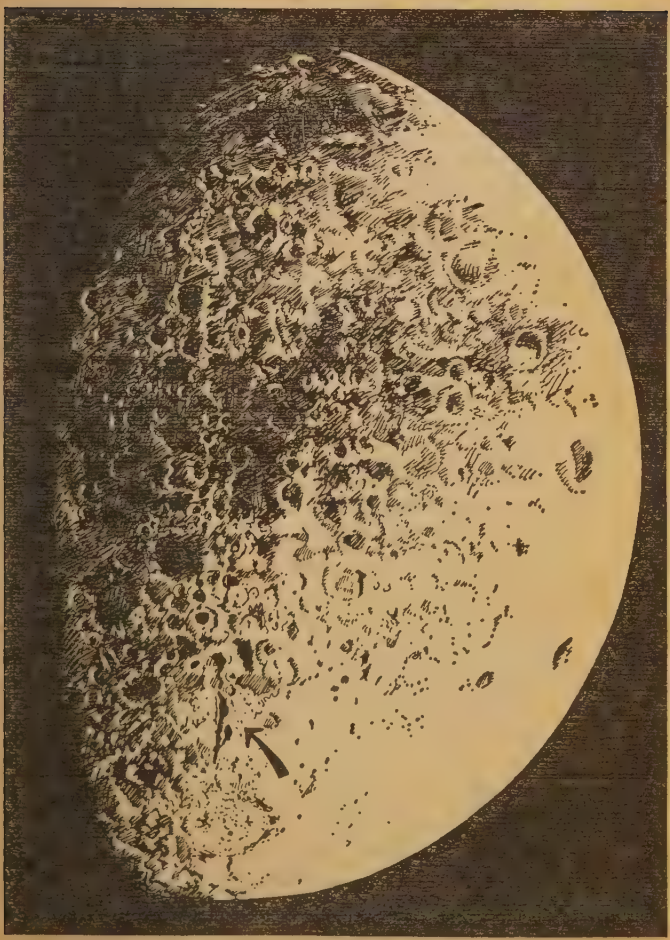
2. THE GREAT CRACK IN THE MOON

On the backside of the Moon, strangely almost directly opposite the straight wall, is a huge crack *150 miles long and five miles wide* in some places. If the Moon is indeed a spaceship with an inner metallic-rock shell beneath miles of dirt and dust and rock this vast opening certainly might be very revealing. Another question more theoretical than practical: Could this great crack formation on the far side of the Moon, which science claims is merely a fault, be somehow related to the straight wall in its formation?

3. THE STRANGE ELONGATED SPIRES

We have discussed in detail these strange enormous spires which cast large elongated shadows for miles.

Are these spires artifacts, as some speculate, or are they natural? El Baz, as we previously pointed out, maintains that some are "taller than the tallest buildings on Earth." What could they be? Natural or artificial? Alien artifacts or just another natural lunar oddity?



The Great Crack on the far side of the Moon—150 miles long, and five miles wide in some places—this rend may furnish the evidence that the Moon is indeed an artificial satellite.

4. THE ENIGMATIC DOMES OF THE MOON

A close examination of the strange domes of the Moon might be beneficial. Are they natural caverns, gaseous blisters as scientists maintain, or artificial constructions as some science writers speculate? As science writer Joseph Goodavage notes: "In the past few years more than 200 white, circular dome-shaped structures have been observed on the Moon and catalogued, but for some strange reason they often vanish from one place and reappear somewhere else."[1]

Has there been that much volcanic activity or such large amounts of inner gases escaping on the surface of this world as to cause hundreds of huge cavernous domelike blisters to rise on the face of this pock-marked planet? Firsthand investigation would dispel all doubt, and at the same time, if Dr. Wilkins (who theorized they are the latter) is right, the investigation might prove whether or not they would be useful to our space colonization program.

The British astronomer made this observation about these strange domes: "It is possible that the first men to land on the Moon will consider some of these natural caverns suitable shelters from the extremes of temperatures and from space hazards inherent to exposure on the surface. Some of the numerous domes resemble bowler hats; may be largely cavernous in their interiors, since they are certainly of volcanic origin as is clearly proved by the little pits on the summits of many of them. They would only require an opening to be cut in their sides to make safe, ready-made surface bases, superior to the artificial plastic domes favored by many space-fiction writers."[2] Surely an investigation of these strange domes would have high priority.

5. BRIDGE OVER THE SEA OF CRISIS?

Is the huge, bridgelike structure that many outstanding astronomers have seen over the Sea of Crisis area, and which they estimate to be about 12 miles long, actually a natural structure or artificial? Dr. H.P. Wilkins, in a BBC radio interview, claimed:

> It looks artificial. It's almost incredible that such a thing could have been formed in the first instance, or if it *was* formed, could have lasted during the ages in which the moon has been in existence. You would have expected it either to be disintegrated by temperature variation or by meteor impact.[3]

And the question remains: Is this "bridge" over the Sea of Crisis area artificial or natural?

A trip to the spot should resolve this problem once and for all.

6. WILKINS'S GREAT PLUGHOLE "THE WASHBOWL"—IS IT AN ENTRANCE TO THE INNER CAVERNOUS WORLD OF THE MOON?

Dr. Wilkins believes extensive caverns might exist inside the Moon and that these could be "connected" to the outer surface by plugholes like the one discovered by the great astronomer himself. Dubbed "the Washbowl," this huge round hole in the Moon is inside a white crater (Cassini A) which is one and a half miles across.

In his book *Our Moon* Wilkins writes: "Its inside is as smooth as glass with a deep pit, or plughole, about 200 yards across, at the centre."[4]

Here is a wild speculation that might be worth investi-

gating to prove one way or another. If UFOs exist and if they emanate from inside the Moon as evidence indicated, then they might be coming and going through these "connecting" plugholes.

This particular plughole dubbed "the Washbowl" is over 600 feet across, and as wide as two football fields laid end to end!

And undoubtedly others exist that are even longer. Here is surely a place of high priority on our investigatory trek.

7. "THE THING"

At a press conference in 1972 astronaut Stuart Roosa showed a photo of a mysterious greenish flat area. "This is a new feature—a sharp depression," Colonel Roosa explained. "It's not a rille. It's not a fault line. No one knows what it is at this time. I'll call it 'The Thing'."[5]

This would be an area well worth visiting!

8. AN ALIEN ARTIFACT OR A NATURAL ODDITY?

Another intriguing early moon photograph that has drawn interest and comment from some scientists shows a miniature crater peak that has in its summit a piece of glass that glints like a diamond on a stickpin. Dr. Thomas Gold, astronomer and NASA scientist, says that he has no explanation to offer for this phenomenon though "he had an idea which was too far out to mention."[6]

Was Dr. Gold referring to the fact that this might be an alien artifact purposely placed on our Moon? Or is it just another peculiar happenstance, another quirk of nature?

Orientale—the huge bull's-eye on the Moon. Areas in and around this site contain strange negative gravitational anomalies called negative mascons. Said Apollo 17 astronaut Ron Evans: "I see a light over the edge of Orientale . . ."

9. THE HUGE BULL'S-EYE ON THE MOON!

One of the weirdest and most prominent features on our neighboring world is the Orientale Basin which consists of a series of concentric rings that some scientists think were caused by faulting. It looks like a huge bull's-eye target of concentric circles, created when a huge stone was tossed into an immense pool of lava. A few scientists have indeed conjectured this is the way the peculiar formation might have come into being—only in this case it must have been a huge meteor smashing into a lake of lava.

There are areas in and around Orientale that record strange negative gravitational anomalies called negative mascons. Could it be, as some scientists speculate, that huge cavities exist under the surface causing these gravitational deviations? Interestingly, this area is where Apollo 17 astronaut Ron Evans spotted a strange light. He reported to Mission Control: "I see a light over the edge of Orientale. I just looked down and saw the light flash again." A UFO over Orientale?

10. THE STRANGE LIGHTS AND GLOWS OF ARISTARCHUS

Many strange lights have been seen on the Moon, and one spot where they have been sighted often is the area of the crater Aristarchus. Dr. Wilkins vividly describes one such sighting: "The moon was a crescent . . . Aristarchus was a faint whitish patch . . . Suddenly Aristarchus began to glow or lighten up until not only the central hill but also the details on the inner slopes were clearly revealed. There was no misty appearance. Everything was sharp and distinct."[7]

What was the cause of this strange light? Wilkins ventures: "The only natural explanation would seem to be

that, in certain regions, the moon's surface consists of material which emits electrons under the influence of light or electronic impact, or considerable deposits of metals, for example, iron, which acts as deflectors of free electrons. The fluorescent effects may be due to electronic bombardment."[8]

Although Aristarchus is one of the areas where lights have been seen many, many times, a number of other areas, as we have seen in the first chapter, have been the center of light observations. In fact, science writer William Corliss says: "The Moon, however, unquestionably luminesces over its entire sunlit face and reddish glows over areas as large as 50,000 square miles have been reported. These displays are most easily attributed to solar-induced luminescence. The high localized, ruby-red spots seen by Herschel, Kozyrev, Greenacre, and many others may be either luminescence, volcanism or some phenomenon we do not yet recognize. Only time and investigation will tell."[9]

Our Apollo 11 astronauts also spotted what they described as "peculiar fluorescence on its [the crater's] wall." Luminescent glows have been unquestionably verified through our space program. Interestingly, at the same time the astronauts were reporting these luminescent glows, the Institute for Space Research in Bochum, Germany, saw similar glows for about six seconds. They were reported to have been observed also in Brazil, Ireland and other far-flung places on the planet Earth. This proves it was not a "trick of the eye." Indeed, observatories in Northern Ireland reported a "series of bright pulsations there."[10] Another observatory station reported "a blue flash."

In fact 97 similar cases of such glows and lights were seen from 1960 to 1965 in this area alone! As one study concluded about them: "The nature of these events remain a mystery." [11]

11. A CROSS AT FRA MAURO, AND A LETTER X AT ERATOSTHENES?

Another lunar curiosity is the sighting of a cross at Fra Mauro, according to the astronomical journal *Sky and Telescope.* Walter Hass, director of the Association of Lunar and Planetary Observers, thinks this cross may "consist of some sunlit mountain spurs or ridges, that the appearance might be of very brief duration, vanishing as the sunlight reaches the lower slopes."[12]

In the crater Eratosthenes there exists "a group of hills in an acute-angled triangle connected by three lower embankments," and also "a geometric object shaped like a cross," as reported by the *Astronomical Register* (Volume 20). Some who *describe* this particular cross as "shaped like the letter X," believe it to be merely an *optical illusion!*

IT IS DIFFICULT TO SAY WHAT IS IMPOSSIBLE. THE DREAM OF YESTERDAY IS THE HOPE OF TODAY, AND THE REALITY OF TOMORROW.

—Robert Goddard,
Father of American Rocketry

EPILOGUE

The great Apollo Moon adventures are at an end. For three and a half years, from July 1969 through December 1972, twelve astronauts explored six selected areas of the Moon's surface, and six additional astronauts waiting in orbit around the Moon investigated vast segments of the lunar world from overhead.

Since man's first step onto the surface of this strange world more than 634 hours have been spent circling this orb, during which time astronauts covered more than 20 percent of the Moon and photographed her almost entirely. About 300 hours were spent on her surface covering less than 60 of the Moon's 14 million square miles.

Much was accomplished. Five nuclear-powered scientific stations were left on this world to transmit data from four seismometers, two heat-flow probes and three magnetometers. Astronauts collected and brought back with them a total of 837 pounds of carefully selected lunar material—mostly rocks and dust.

Though all this vast effort and subsequent study has shed much light on the makeup of this mystery world, on a whole scientists still remain in the dark as to its origin and nature.

One of the reasons scientists of Earth were so anxious to send man to the Moon was because they thought it would be an astronomical Rosetta Stone that would unlock the secrets of our solar system and universe. On this airless, erosionless, rainless surface man might be able to read the past history of our planet.

But this has turned out not to be the case. No longer is it fashionable among scientists to consider the Moon as the Rosetta Stone of the solar system. As Dr. Farouk El Baz, now of the Smithsonian Institute puts it: "Maybe the moon is the Stonehenge of the solar system, but not the Rosetta stone. It tells us a great deal, but there are still many mysteries."[1]

The Moon, like Stonehenge, is still ringed with mysteries, mysteries that continue to haunt the mind of man, but for all man knows, mysteries that may indeed someday solve the riddle of his own existence.

We have undoubtedly learned much from Apollo. But not enough to resolve absolutely the question as to what the Moon's nature is, how it came into existence, or where it came from. In this book we have seen a preponderance of evidence favoring the unheard of theory of two Soviet scientists that the Moon is a spaceship. We realize this theory is not yet conclusively proven to be fact beyond the shadow of a doubt, but any open-minded investigator must admit there is a mountain of evidence in its favor. In our opinion, this evidence is weighty and gives us a probability in proving it to be fact.

On the other hand we just do not know enough to prove anything—one way or the other—*conclusively*. So even though a mountain of evidence has been collected and assessed, and much of it unquestionably against the three major theories, still not enough has been collected to prove beyond the shadow of a doubt that any theory is completely incorrect.

Professor George W. Wetherill, of the University of California at Los Angeles, recently observed: "I personally would guess that some kind of capture is the proper

theory, but I would give it only a 20 percent chance compared to 10 percent for each of the others. The other 60 percent represents things we haven't thought of yet!"[2]

The simple fact is that most scientists have probably never even heard of the Vasin-Shcherbakov spaceship theory. And even if they did they certainly would not give it serious consideration. It is just too far-out, too "science-fictionish" to be considered seriously by orthodox science.

So-called modern scientific knowledge—concepts that have been entrenched for ages like old superstitions—are not uprooted easily. New ideas, concepts, facts that upset preconceived, well-established ideas or theories are generally rejected offhand, and often with derision, and hostility. The entire history of science bears testimony to this truth.

So too it will probably be with this concept—at least the conservative scientific community will probably treat it with derision. Many otherwise intelligent people will spurn the idea of the Moon being a spaceship as ridiculous.

On October 22nd, 1903, a New York periodical, the *Independent*, carried an article that predicted that man could never learn to fly. Its author was Simon Newcomb, then head of the Nautical Almanac office, U.S. Naval Observatory. Newcomb stated his case bluntly: "There are many problems which have fascinated man since civilization began, which we have made little or no advance on solving. . . . May not our mechanicians . . . be ultimately forced to admit that aerial flight is one of that great class of problems with which man can never cope, and give up all attempts to grapple with it?"

Two months later, on December 17th, 1903, the Wright brothers made their first successful powered flight at Kitty Hawk, North Carolina.

Religious leaders have not had a much better record than scientists in accepting new concepts or foreseeing the great possibilities of new ideas. A Christian bishop also bluntly claimed that man would never learn to fly.

In fact, he stated that it was blasphemy to even think he could! After all, he pointed out, if God had intended man to fly, He would have given him this power Himself, even as He did the birds.

That bishop's name was Wright—and it was his nephews Orville and Wilbur who achieved man's first powered flight.

A great many other advances of man have been declared impossible or even when proven came to be pooh-poohed and ridiculed. Pasteur's germicidal and Lister's antiseptic methods were declared by scientists who should have known better to be utterly ridiculous. Anaesthetics were spurned as unscientific and even outlawed on religious grounds because some orthodox-minded people felt that man was born to suffer pain and it was a sin to try to avoid it.

Radio was declared "impossible" by some orthodox scientists at its first inception because, as they pointed out, Hertzian radio waves traveled in straight lines and therefore would go straight across the horizon and into outer space, thus never reaching the listener.

But perhaps the most pertinent example of orthodox resistance to new ideas came in regard to the possibility of space travel.

In 1945 Dr. Vannevar Bush, America's top scientific advisor to the military services, and head of the World War II office of Scientific Research Development, claimed before Congress: "There has been a great deal said about 3000-mile-high angle rockets. In my opinion, such a thing is impossible for many years. I wish the American public would leave it out of their thinking."[3]

A little over a decade later the Soviet Union launched the world's first satellite and began the space age.

We hope things will be different concerning this theory, but we realize they probably will not be. We urge orthodox scientists to consider this Soviet theory seriously, and not declare it to be "impossible" without investigation.

Undoubtedly, some readers will agree with these con-

servative scientific thinkers that it just has to be impossible. We ask that they remember Arthur Clarke's famous dictum, which we here propose to call the Clarkean law: "When a distinguished but elderly scientist states that something is possible, he is almost certainly right. When he states that something is impossible, he is very probably wrong."[4]

The Moon has been rightly described as "a stepping-stone" into outer space. But the Moon, given the startling spaceship revelation, may well prove to be more than just a stepping-stone. It could well be a "leaping-stone" in the cosmic destiny of man.

We urge scientists all over the world to take the Vasin-Shcherbakov theory seriously. Too many pieces of evidence seem to fit to reject the "wild" theory without investigation. We do not in the least demean the outstanding work that lunar scientists have already done. Indeed, these quiet heroes dedicated to learning the truth about the Moon have worked wholeheartedly for years, mostly with frustration, but not completely without success.

Until all the facts are in, however, the possibility still remains that another corps of "quiet heroes" deserves our thanks. Their gifts to us—perhaps the most precious in the universe—still stretch our imaginations to the utmost, and perhaps it is their awesome visages that adorn the ruins of Tiahuanaco. Someday some earthly astronaut yet unborn may find the originals of those carvings in some cavern on the Moon.

Until then, let us think of other, *alien* men when we contemplate our origins, and our destiny . . .

As Captain Eugene Cernan, Apollo 17 crew member, told a conference of space workers at Cape Kennedy in 1973: "Apollo 17 had the shoulders of giants on which we stood as we reached for the stars. . . . These were your shoulders and we thank you for them."

FOOTNOTES

CHAPTER 1: *THE MYSTERIES OF THE MOON OVER THE CENTURIES*

[1]H.P. Wilkins, *Our Moon*, p. 139.
[2]*Ibid.*
[3]*Ibid.*
[4]*Ibid.*
[5]William Corliss, *Mysteries of the Universe*, pp. 159–160.
[6]*Science* (January 1967), pp. 449–450.
[7]*Ibid.*
[8]*Ibid.*
[9]Corliss, p. 159.
[10]*National Geographic* (February 1969), p. 229.
[11]*Ibid.*
[12]Harold Wilkins, *Flying Saucers on the Attack*, p. 231.
[13]Maxwell Cade, *Other Worlds Than Ours*, p. 107.
[14]Corliss, pp. 105–6.
[15]*Ibid.*
[16]Robert Charroux, *Forgotten Worlds*, p. 137.
[17]*Saga* (April 1974), p. 46.
[18]Harold Wilkins, p. 226.
[19]Major Donald Keyhoe, *Flying Saucer Conspiracy*, pp. 74–5.

CHAPTER 2: *ASTRONAUTS AND UFOs AROUND THE PLANET EARTH*

[1]*Saga*'s *UFO Special* III, p. 58.
[2]*The Condon Report: Scientific Study of Unidentified Flying Objects*, p. 194.
[3]Gordon Cooper, *We Seven*, p. 53.
[4]*The Condon Report*, p. 205.
[5]*Ibid.*
[6]*Ibid.*, pp. 204–5.
[7]*Saga*'s *UFO Special* III, p. 60.
[8]*The Condon Report*, pp. 207–8.
[9]*Ibid.*, p. 202.
[10]*Ibid.*, p. 203.
[11]*Ibid.*
[12]*The Condon Report*, p. 198.
[13]*Ibid.*
[14]*Ibid.*

CHAPTER 3: *APOLLO ASTRONAUTS' ALIEN ENCOUNTERS ON AND AROUND THE MOON*

[1]*Saga*'s *UFO Special* III, p. 46.
[2]*Ibid.*
[3]John Mansfield, *Man on the Moon*, p. 207.
[4]*Ibid.*, p. 212.
[5]*Ibid.*, p. 221.
[6]*Saga*'s *UFO Special* III, p. 41.
[7]*Ibid.*
[8]*Ibid.*, p. 44.
[9]*Ibid.*
[10]*Ibid.*
[11]*Saga*'s *UFO Special* III, p. 58.
[12]*Saga* (April 1974), p. 46.
[13]*National Geographic* (September 1973), pp. 296–307.
[14]*Saga* (March 1974), p. 38.
[15]*Saga* (April 1974), p. 30.
[16]*Saga*'s *UFO Special* III, p. 11.
[17]*Ibid.*, p. 59.

CHAPTER 4: *MYSTERIES OF THE MOON WORLD ITSELF*

[1]Issac Asimov, *Intelligent Man's Guide to Science*, p. 108. Also, *Is Anyone There*, pp. 242–3.
[2]*America's Race for the Moon*, p. 100.
[3]*National Geographic* (February 1969), p. 225.
[4]*Ibid.*, p. 222.
[5]*Astronautics* (July 1962), pp. 14–15.
[6]*Ibid.*

CHAPTER 5: *THE MOON MYSTERIES RE-EXAMINED*

[1]*National Geographic* (February 1969), p. 225.
[2]*America's Race for the Moon*, pp. 97–8.

CHAPTER 6: *THE SCIENTIFIC MYSTERIES UNEARTHED BY APOLLO*

[1]*Science News* (June 1973), p. 355.
[2]*Pensées:* Special Edition: *Immanuel Velikovsky Reconsidered:* How Much of Yesterday's Heresy is Today's Science, p. 13.
[3]*Ibid.*
[4]*Chemistry* (February 1974), pp. 19–20.
[5]Earl Ubell, *New York Times Magazine*, (April 16, 1972), p. 32.
[6]*Science News* (October 4, 1972), p. 246.
[7]*Physics Today* (March 1974), p. 45.
[8]*Science* (November 12, 1971), pp. 687–692.
[9]NASA: *Apollo 14: Science at Fra Mauro*, p. 17.
[10]*Ibid.*, p. 19.
[11]*Science News* (November 12, 1971), p. 688.
[12]*Popular Science* (January 1972), p. 67–8.
[13]*Science News* (July 1, 1972), p. 12–13.
[14]*Science News* (January 29, 1972), p. 73.
[15]*America's Race for the Moon*, p. 100.

[16]*Time* (January 25, 1971), p. 42.
[17]*Science News* (October 23, 1971), p. 277. Also see *The Third Lunar Conference* (Vol. 3), p. 227; *Water Vapor, Whence Comest Thou?* Dr. J.W. Freeman, H.K. Hills, and R.R. Vandrak, Dept. of Space Science, Rice University.
[18]*Science News* (October 23, 1971), p. 277.
[19]*Ibid.*
[20]*Science News* (July 1, 1972), p. 13.
[21]*Science News* (January 29, 1972), p. 73.
[22]*National Geographic* (February 1972), p. 235.
[23]*Ibid.*
[24]*The Moon, An International Journal of Lunar Studies* (Vol. 7, 1973).
[25]Henry Cooper, *Moon Rocks,* pp. 81–2.
[26]*Science News* (December 6, 1969), p. 521.
[27]*Moon Rocks,* p. 117.
[28]*Ibid.,* p. 86.
[29]*Ibid.,* p. 119.
[30]*Ibid.,* p. 169.
[31]*Ibid.,* p. 170.
[32]*Ibid.,* p. 168.
[33]*Ibid.,* pp. 168–9.
[34]*Ibid.,* p. 120.
[35]*Science* (August 1971), p. 65.
[36]Ubell, p. 50.
[37]*Science News* (January 29, 1972), p. 74.
[38]*Science News* (May 27, 1972), p. 347.

CHAPTER 7: *OUR PLANET EARTH WITHOUT A MOON?*

[1]*The Moon, An International Journal of Lunar Studies* (Vol. 5), pp. 210–220.
[2]Aristotle Fr. 591 (Ed. V. Rose) *Constitution of Tagean,* p. 591, Section 76.
[3]Plutarch, *The Roman Question* (Moralia), tr. F.C. Babbit.
[4]Ovid, *Fasti* (tr. Sir James Frazer), p. 290.
[5]Apollonius Rhodius, IV, p. 264.
[6]Censorinus *(De Die Natal),* p. 19.

[7]*Pensées,* Immanuel Velikovsky Reconsidered, Part III, p. 25.
[8]*Ibid.*
[9]*Ibid.*
[10]*Ibid.*
[11]H.S. Bellamy, *Moons, Myths and Men,* p. 243.
[12]*Ibid.*
[13]*Pensées,* IV, p. 25.
[14]*The Moon, An International Journal of Lunar Studies* (1972), 2, pp. 208–9.

CHAPTER 8: *ALIEN LUNAR ASTRONAUTS IN MAN'S PAST?*

[1]H.S. Bellamy, *Built Before The Flood,* p. 40.
[2]Sir Clemens Markheim, *The Incas of Peru,* p. 21.
[3]*Ibid.*
[4]*Built Before the Flood,* p. 80.
[5]L. Pauwell; J. Bergier, *The Morning of the Magicians,* p. 238.
[6]Paul Hermann, *The Great Age of Discovery,* p. 195.
[7]J. Bergier, *Extraterrestrial Visitation,* p. 39.
[8]H.S. Bellamy, *The Calendar of Tiahuanaco,* p. 21.
[9]*Ibid.*
[10]*Ibid.*
[11]*Ibid.,* p. 406.
[12]*Ibid.*

CHAPTER 9: *THE MOON'S UFO CONNECTION*

[1]Peter Kolosimo, *Not of This World,* pp. 152–3.
[2]*Ibid.*
[3]*Ibid.*
[4]Charles Berlitz, *Mysteries from Forgotten Worlds,* p. 80.
[5]*Saga* (April 1974), p. 26.
[6]*Ibid.,* p. 46.
[7]*Ibid.*
[8]H.P. Wilkins, *Our Moon,* p. 134.
[9]*Ibid.*
[10]*Ibid.,* p. 133.

[11]*Saga* (March 1974), p. 36.
[12]*New York Times* (August 3, 1974), p. 15.
[13]*New York Times* (May 31).
[14]*Saga* (March 1974), p. 30.
[15]*Ibid.*, p. 38.
[16]*Ibid.*

CHAPTER 10: *LUNAR MYSTERY SPOTS WORTH VISITING*

[1]*Saga* (April 1974), p. 48.
[2]H.P. Wilkins, *Our Moon,* p. 133.
[3]*Ibid.*
[4]*New York Times* (August 4, 1972), p. 14.
[5]*Moon Rocks,* pp. 157–8.
[6]*Saga,* (March 1974), p. 38.
[7]H.P. Wilkins, p. 133.
[8]*Ibid.*
[9]W. Corliss, p. 177.
[10]*New York Times* (July 20, 1969), p. 39:1.
[11]*Ibid.*
[12]*Sky and Telescope* (June 1958), p. 414.

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[1]*National Geographic* (September 1973).
[2]*Ibid.*, p. 321.
[3]Dandridge Cole, *Islands in Space,* p. xii.
[4]Arthur Clarke, *Profiles of the Future,* p. 14.

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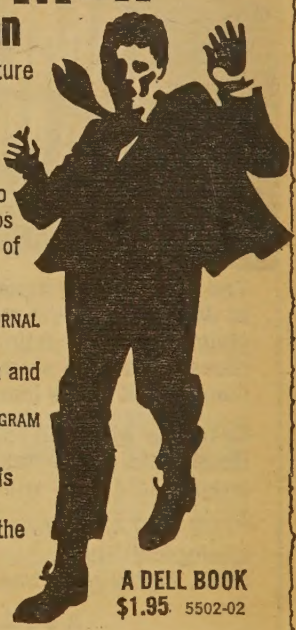

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